



# SPEECHES

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT  
HON'BLE

LAWRENCE JOHN LUMLEY  
DUNDAS

GOVERNOR OF  
WEST BENGAL.

1919-20



# SPEECHES

delivered by

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble

Lawrence John Lumley Dundas,

Earl of Ronaldshay, G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL,

during

1919-20.





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**SPEECHES DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DURING 1919-20.**

***His Excellency's Speech at the Unveiling of the  
Statues of late Sir Tarak Nath Palit and  
Sir Rash Behary Ghosh at the University  
College of Science, on 1st April 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

This, I suppose, is the first function of a public or semi-public character which has taken place under the Chairmanship of the new Vice-Chancellor, and while taking this opportunity of expressing to the Chief Justice of Bengal my gratitude to him for the able way in which he has presided over the affairs of this University, I, at the same time, venture to offer to Sir Nil Ratan Sarkar, his successor, my sincerest good wishes for a useful and successful term of office. The ceremony which we have gathered together to take part in this evening, is one to which there is attached no common significance. We are about to unveil the statues of two eminent and public-spirited men of Bengal—Sir Tarak Nath Palit, alas, no longer with us, and

Sir Rash Behary Ghosh happily still amongst us—and we naturally feel the pleasure and satisfaction which we always experience when we are paying homage to men of conspicuous merit and ability, who have rendered conspicuous service to their fellow-men. But special significance is attached to this particular ceremony on account of the character of the service which these two gentlemen have rendered. I well remember how the late Mr. Gokhale used to insist that the foremost duty of a University was to add something to the sum total of human knowledge. The special significance, which attaches to the services of these two gentlemen, lies in the fact that they have enabled the University to undertake that supreme task. By the magnificent gift of 25 lakhs of rupees they have not only made possible the erection of the Calcutta College of Science, but they have also endowed the Chairs and scholarships necessary for the research work of which this building is to be the home. What is research work except the search after truth? And what is truth? That is perhaps a more difficult question to answer. I am disposed to think that “truth” in the widest sense and meaning of the word might not unfitly be translated into Sanskrit by the word “Brahma.” For when we have found truth, the complete truth, ignorance and the whole complex structure of the phenomenal universe which rests upon ignorance will be no more. However that may be, whatever be our individual conceptions of ultimate truth, and however we attempt to define it,

I think that few will dissent from the view which I am about to put forward, namely, that the search after truth is the mainspring of this human universe and that the quest of truth may be pursued along many paths. The particular path upon which the late Sir Tarak Nath Palit and Sir Rash Behary Ghosh have placed the feet of their brilliant young compatriots is the path of Natural Science, a path along which much wonderful progress has been made in recent years by many men in many lands. Their service is not exhausted with the mere making of the gift. Indeed, the mere making of the gift is but the beginning of the service which they have rendered. It is but the planting of the seed, so to speak, from which will come forth in due time a mighty tree with spreading branches, ever growing and expanding and sending forth fresh shoots. I hope that the young men of Bengal will take advantage of the great opportunity which has been given to them. But even this is not all. I am thinking of what our Vice-Chancellor said with regard to the spirit of forgetfulness which he suggested had come over certain classes of Indians since the introduction of Western education in this country. It seems to me that this particular gift possesses this further significance that it testifies to a revival of that spirit, the disappearance of which Sir Nil Ratan Sarkar lamented—the spirit, that is to say which recognizes that not the Government only, but the individual also, possesses a duty towards the community. I do not suggest for a moment that



this spirit has completely passed away from the educated classes of this country. Far be it from me to make any such suggestion. There are men who have made valuable gifts to the cause of education: the names of Prem Chand Roy Chand, Prāsanna Kumar Tagore, Guru Prasanna Ghosh and the Maharaja of Darbhanga immediately come to mind in this connection; but by the magnificence of their gifts these two gentlemen have set a new standard which invites comparison with the princely gifts made by men like Lord Strathcona, Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller in the Western hemisphere. I hope that in setting a new standard they have also set a new fashion, and that this fashion will in the future find many followers among the wealthy and educated classes of Bengal, and that before long we will see a growing procession of public-spirited men, bringing with them generous gifts, to lay at the feet of the Vice-Chancellor of this University. There is nothing more that I need say except that it is a great pleasure to me to have been invited to perform this extremely pleasant function this evening.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal Legislative Council Meeting, on 9th April 1919.***

[HIS EXCELLENCY in adjourning the Council *sine die* made a statement of the work done by the Council during the session just concluded and said]:—

That concludes the business of winter session of the Council. It is usual for the President to say a few words at the conclusion of the session as to the work which has been done. We have just had three rather long and strenuous days and I propose, therefore, to be very brief in such remarks as I shall make in regard to the past session. The Council, I think, may congratulate itself upon the most fruitful session from the legislative point of view which it has enjoyed for some years past. Several Bills have reached the Statute Book and one or two are very nearly there. Our old and familiar friend, the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Bill, has at last become the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act. Even though we may not all of us appreciate the actual benefits which that measure confers upon the community, I am sure that for other reasons we are thankful to think that it has passed beyond the purview of this Chamber. Another measure of value, though not a very large measure, for which the Council have been responsible during the past

session, is the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act of 1919, upon the passage of which I would congratulate both the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming and the members of this Council.

Then I must make a passing reference to two measures, the passage of which marks a new stage, I think, in the development of legislative practice in this country. I refer to the Juvenile Smoking Act of 1919 and to the Bengal Primary Education Bill, the latter of which has passed this Council and is now awaiting the sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy. I say that these two measures mark a fresh stage in the legislative practice of this country, because they are, I believe, the first enactments for which private members of the Bengal Legislative Council have been responsible. I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the authors of these two Bills—Hon'ble Dr. Surawardy, the author of the Juvenile Smoking Bill, and the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Roy, the author of the Bengal Primary Education Bill, upon the passage of these two measures. Both of them have valuable possibilities. There may be some difference of opinion as to the extent to which the various authorities, who will be authorized under the Juvenile Smoking Act, to adopt a punitive attitude towards small boys, will put it into practice. At any rate the passage of the Act establishes the principle that it is one of the duties of the legislature to assist the public to bring about such changes in the habits of the people as it believes to be desirable and salutary. With regard

to the Bengal Primary Education Bill, I should like to express my personal satisfaction, and, I think, I may say the satisfaction of my Government at the passage of that measure. The whole question of Primary Education was under the consideration of the Bengal Government, and in particular of my honourable colleague the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, when this Bill was introduced, and the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, fitted in so well with the views which we had formed as to the best methods of proceeding with a view to extending Primary Education in Bengal, that we accepted it with satisfaction and gratitude. I believe that a large step in advance will be made in the direction of extending Primary Education as a result of the provisions of the measure.

One other Bill has advanced appreciably during the past session and that is the Food Adulteration Bill, another measure to which both the Government, and I am sure, the Hon'ble Members of this Council attach great importance. The report of the Select Committee upon that Bill has been presented, and I hope that it will be possible for us to take it into consideration during the forthcoming summer session of the Council.

Finally, we have this afternoon concluded our labours upon the Village Self-Government Bill, and I would express my appreciation of the kindly

remark which fell from the Hon'ble Sir D. P. Sarbadhicary when that Bill was on the point of being accepted by the Council a few moments ago.

I should like also to express my thanks to the many Hon'ble Members of this Council for the assistance and co-operation which they have given us in giving this measure its final shape. In particular I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Select Committee for giving so much time and so much labour to the matter. It would be ungrateful of me also if I were not to take this opportunity of expressing to the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler my thanks for the immense amount of time and labour which he has given to the measure. That time and labour has been over and above the time and labour which he has to devote to his ordinary duties. But for the unfortunate illness of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Bill would have been conducted through the Council by him. I mention that because I think it is only fair to Sir Henry Wheeler who has had very heavy additional duties thrown upon his shoulders, that we should express to him our thanks and appreciation for the courteous manner in which he has discharged his duties.

That I think is all that I need say about our legislative output. As I have said I think it is the most useful legislative output for which this Council has been responsible for a good many years past.

So far as the other functions of this Council are concerned, namely, the criticism of the Executive Government, I think Hon'ble Members may look back on a satisfactory session. They have moved a number of resolutions on matters of general importance, some 24 in all, and they have moved some 34 resolutions on the Financial Statement. they have also displayed a laudable desire for information by asking a number of questions, some 360 in all. The Government have at all times done their best to supply the information which has been asked for in these questions. I may point out that the mere figure of 360 does not by any means indicate the real number of questions asked, since a single question is very often divided up into a very large number of sub-heads, and so I say that the actual number of questions asked was nearer 1,500 or 2,000 than the number suggested by the official figures.

There is only one other piece of work to which I need make reference and that is the special session of the Council which was held in November last for the consideration of the Reform Scheme. Hon'ble Members will remember that a committee of non-official members of this Council was appointed as a result of that special meeting in order that they might consider the Reform Scheme and report to Government their opinions upon it. As a result of their labours the Government had placed in their hands a useful and interesting document which

clearly indicated to them the views which non-official members of this Council take with regard to the different aspect of the Reform Scheme, and we are proportionately grateful to them for the time and trouble which they took in preparing their report.

It only remains for me to wish you a pleasant vacation until we next meet at a later period of the summer.

The Council now stands adjourned *sine die*.

***His Excellency's Address to the Meeting of the  
Leaders of the Marwari and Bhatia Commu-  
nities called in Government House, Calcutta,  
on 13th April 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have asked you to come here this evening, because I wish to place before you certain considerations arising out of the present situation. The present situation is one of considerable gravity. Under these circumstances you will agree with me, I am sure, that the time for exchanging complimentary phrases is passed, and that the time for perfectly plain-speaking has arrived. Let me remind you for a moment of the position which the Marwari community occupy in Calcutta. The Marwari community—though they do not belong to Bengal—have lived in Bengal and traded in Bengal for many years. They have taken full advantage of the benefits which they have derived from well-ordered Government. They have traded in peace and generally speaking, I think, we may say that they have been law-abiding citizens and successful merchants. That being so, it is with profound regret that I have learnt that the action of a considerable section of the Marwari community, during the past few days, has been such as to cast little credit upon themselves or their community. Indeed it is not too much to say that the action of a certain section of the Marwari



community has been largely responsible for the unfortunate disorders which have disgraced Calcutta during the past two days. Now, I understand, that many members of your community are advocates of a policy which has been propounded by Mr. Gandhi and which is euphemistically described as a policy of "passive resistance." What passive resistance becomes in practice we unfortunately already know only too well. We have had lamentable examples of the results of the preaching of this doctrine, not only in Calcutta, but in other parts of India. Let me say at once that neither I nor my Government have the smallest desire to interfere with the liberty of speech of any section of His Majesty's subjects, so long only as the liberty of speech is not so abused as to conduce to breaches of the peace. In proof of which let me remind you of the attitude which Government have adopted towards those who have wished to give expressions to their feelings in Calcutta during the past few days. No difficulty of any kind was placed in the way of holding the meeting on Sunday last. I was determined that the Government should take no action which could be regarded as in any way provocative, and I have been told on all sides that the attitude of the Police towards these demonstrations has been all that possibly could have been desired. Neither on Sunday last nor on subsequent days did the Police take action, until at last yesterday unfortunately they were absolutely compelled to do so. I want to make

that perfectly clear that, no body can charge the Bengal Government during these past few days with having done anything to provoke the unfortunate disturbances which have taken place. Now I want to ask you this question? I am not addressing you individually—I am addressing through you the Mārwarī community as a whole and the Bhatia community and the other communities which you may represent. Suppose you continue to promulgate the doctrine of passive resistance. Have you ever paused to ask yourselves where that doctrine is going to lead you? What is meant by the doctrine? What is meant by it is this—that if an individual or a number of individuals take exception to a certain statute or statutes upon the Statute Book, he or they are for that reason justified in violating any other of the laws of the land which they may select arbitrarily for that purpose. That is the policy which is propounded by Mr. Gandhi. Have you ever paused to consider what that is going to result in, when it is adopted by the fanatical and the uneducated masses of the people? It can result in one thing and in one thing only—it can result in anarchy, pure and simple, in the paralysis of all business, in the negation of law and order, in the cessation of all progress and, indeed, in the collapse of civilization itself. Well, now I would ask you seriously if you agree with me in that—is it wise—not from the point of view of Government itself, but from the point of view of the community—is it wise to create that spirit

amongst the masses of the people? It is very easy for an educated man to say—"I will resist the law passively; I will merely refuse to obey it," but that is not the attitude which the uneducated and the fanatical masses are going to adopt if once you instil into their minds the belief that they are right and justified in violating the laws of the land. You are going to raise a spirit of anarchy which will spread far beyond any body's control; and let me remind you of this—when that spirit has thoroughly permeated the masses of the people—who are the first who are going to suffer from it? The very first people who will suffer from it are the educated—the people who have amassed wealth: they are the people who are going to be first to suffer, if once you inculcate this spirit of lawlessness in the people. I do not wish to pursue that aspect of the question further. I do not know whether you are impressed with the danger of the present situation to the extent that I am. All I can tell you is that after a very careful consideration of the events not in Calcutta only, but events of a far graver character in other parts of India, I have had the grave nature of the present situation brought home to me; and I am determined that so far as lies in my power and in the power of my Government, I am going to protect the vast body of law-abiding citizens from disorders of this kind. And let me utter this solemn warning—if I find that there are individuals amongst the Marwari community or amongst any other community who are bent

upon instigating others to disturbances of this kind, I shall bring to my assistance in dealing with them all the powers which the laws of the land provide. It must be perfectly plain to any thinking man that if there be such persons in any community, it is in the best interests of that community itself and of the great mass of the people themselves, that they should be removed from this city, whose peace and whose progress they desire to destroy. Now having placed before you the danger of the present situation as I see it, and having explained to you my view of what the duty of Government is under these circumstances, I am going to extend to you—to every one of you—a most cordial invitation to co-operate with Government and to array yourselves on the side of law and order, and I am going to invite you, as cordially as I can, to use all the influence which you individually possess with the other members of your respective communities to bring home to them the great danger which they are running of playing with fire in this manner, and to use your persuasive powers to make them see that in their own interests and in the interests of the peace, progress and the prosperity of this country, they should take no action which has a tendency further to inflame public feeling, especially amongst the uneducated masses—feeling already in a sufficiently excited state. If you agree with me, as I feel certain upon reflection that you will, that now is the time when all those who have the best interests of their country at

heart must come forward and show that they are on the side of law and order, then I feel convinced that these unfortunate disturbances—this spirit of grave unrest based largely—if not entirely—upon misrepresentations and upon the preaching of false doctrines, will die down; and we may then look forward once more—to Indian and European, Hindu and Muhammadan, Marwari and Bhatia—advancing together, not in a spirit of continual antagonism, one with the other, but in a spirit of co-operation, in the best interests of all classes of the community.

*His Excellency's Speech at the opening of,  
a new Wing of St. Paul's Home for Girls  
(73, Serpentine Lane, Calcutta), on 30th June  
1919.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On the tablet that I have just unveiled will be found inscribed a brief history of the institution known as St. Paul's Home for Girls. From that brief record it will be seen that the institution already has behind it a long and a somewhat chequered career. From the day when it first came into existence in Ballighhatta Road in 1874 up to the present time it has changed its site on no less than three occasions, in 1875, 1876 and again in 1885. Its more recent history has, I am happy to say, shown a greater measure of steady progress. From the reports of the late Canon Jackson, whose name will always be honourably associated with the institution, we learn how in 1907 it acquired a house and grounds of its own. That was a great improvement on the past. Still, the buildings themselves erected by Canon Jackson left something to be desired. The last improvement—the extension, whose opening we are celebrating to-day—has rounded off the work which has been so long in progress. The building, as now constructed, will have accommodation for some eighty girls in addition to matrons and teachers, and we may say, I think, that the institution now

constitutes a monument worthy of the missionary and philanthropic spirit of that early little band of workers who went forth from the Cathedral into the highways and byways of St. James's parish on their mission of mercy nearly half a century ago. The cost of this extension has been defrayed from grants by the European Schools Improvement Association, the Church Education League and the Government. But it is, perhaps, not altogether unfitting that I should remind the friends of the Mission that increased responsibility entails increased recurring charges. As regards the utility of this institution no one, I think, who knows anything of the circumstances of a considerable part of the Anglo-Indian community, will entertain any doubts whatever. It is an untold blessing to large numbers of children, whose lives are rendered better and happier for its existence, and for whom it provides a shelter against much of the evil to which their lives would otherwise be subjected. Everybody who has the interest of this community at heart must be thankful for the existence of this institution, and I, along with them, wish it a long career of usefulness, of happiness and of great prosperity.

*Address presented at Rangamati, on 29th July, 1919.*

We, the Chiefs, Headmen and people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, most respectfully beg to offer our most loyal and hearty welcome on this most auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to our picturesque station and district.

2. We beg to assure Your Excellency of our full appreciation of the many benefits which the Hill Tracts have derived since they came under the British Rule. We beg to take this opportunity to convey through Your Excellency our deep and sincere attachment and loyalty to the British Throne.

3. The district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is unlike other districts of Bengal, both as regards its physical features as well as its inhabitants. It is inhabited by many different hill tribes, namely, the Chakmas, Mughhs, Tipperas, Riangs, Murrungs, Tanchangyas, Lushais, Punkus, Kums, and Banjugis. Most of these tribes live by primitive agricultural method of juming and some have taken to plough cultivation. Centuries ago the Hill Tracts were occupied by races who lived by plough cultivation and there are relics of tanks and *pucca* houses. But the low lands which are fit for plough cultivation, are mostly subject to inundation and hence the area became desolated once more. Since the occupation of



the country by the present hill tribes, efforts are being made to open out lands for plough cultivation, but they have been subjected to many heavy losses. Last year there were several floods in the beginning of the rainy season and complete drought later on. Though the cotton was exceptionally good last year, the paddy was poor in the jum. Added to this the economic difficulties have increased manifold, while, on the other hand, the cadastral survey has increased the land rent enormously.

4. We will not refer to the administration of these Hill Tracts and the changes suggested to be introduced and the representation made by us, and tire Your Excellency's patience, as we are aware that Your Excellency in your anxious solicitude for the Chiefs, headmen, and people of these Tracts, has taken the great trouble of personally coming down to this place and of examining the whole matter on the spot. The Chiefs have always rendered loyal services to the State to the best of their abilities, and we fervently hope that during these days of advancement and progress, the Government will adopt a broad and sympathetic policy towards the subject and raise the status of these once independent races and their ancient Chiefs to have a place among the civilized nations of the world.

5. This part of the country is in need of many improvements, especially in opening out of communications by land and water between the

different centres of the Hill Tracts and the Regulation District of Chittagong. In particular we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice the urgent need of improved communication between Rangamati and Chittagong. In 1915 His Excellency Lord Carmichael during his visit to Rangamati was pleased to approve of the scheme of opening wheeled traffic, but this had to be postponed on account of the financial difficulties caused by the great European War. But now that it has terminated with the deserved success of the British and Allied Arms, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency would be so pleased as to order to take up the work at once and remove this long-felt and crying need of the district.

6. We humbly beg to inform Your Excellency that the inadequacy of the supply of good drinking water in this station was brought to the notice of Lord Carmichael in 1915 and that His Excellency was pleased to depute one of the sanitary engineering experts to consider and report on the matter. We understand that such an enquiry was made, and plan and estimate of the scheme were submitted, but owing to the shortness of funds due to the war, work has been kept in abeyance. We pray that Your Excellency would graciously take this matter up in order to remove this long-felt want of the station.

7. On the occasion of His Excellency Lord Carmichael's last visit we prayed for a Lady Doctor for this district, but His Excellency was

pleased to suggest that the appointment of a certified midwife would partly meet with the requirements. We now pray that this question may also be favourably considered by Your Excellency.

8. We beg to bring to the kind notice of Your Excellency that most of the people of the district, owing to the scarcity of juming and also sufficient plough lands, have taken to the habit of roaming from place to place and the consequence has been the outbreak of scarcity year after year. In fact the material conditions of the jumias of this district is much worse than those of any other district. We are very grateful to Government that they have always stretched out their generous hands with agricultural loans to the sufferers and saved the people from starvation and death. It has always been a difficult problem as to how to provide jumias with sufficient juming area. The question is becoming more and more acute on account of the exhaustion of the juming lands and the consequent poorer out-turn of jum produce and also on account of the increase of population.

9. We further humbly beg to submit to Your Excellency that about 99 per cent. of the population live on agriculture which entirely depends on the timely rainfall. Consequently, agriculture failing, they have no other means to fall back upon. It is, therefore, necessary to provide new openings for the people to surmount,

at least partially, the economic difficulties, which are on the increase. With Your Excellency's permission we beg to suggest in this connection that a technical school may be started at Rangamati.

10. We are sincerely grateful to British administration for introducing English education and culture in the country, and we venture to approach Your Excellency with a request for further development of education in these Tracts.

11. In conclusion, we beg to offer Your Excellency's Government our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the various benefits derived by us at the hands of the Government and also for the special attention always given to all matters regarding the Hill Tracts, particularly to the welfare of the hill people. We trust that Your Excellency's visit to Rangamati will prove a pleasant one and sincerely wish Your Excellency a long and happy and yet more prosperous life.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address presented  
at Rangamati, on 29th July 1919.***

CHIEFS AND HEADMEN OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL  
TRACTS,

I thank you for the loyal and cordial welcome which you have been good enough to extend to me on this the first occasion on which I have visited your country. I thank you, too, for the spontaneous expression which you have given to your gratitude and attachment to the British throne.

I am well aware that the district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts differs in many respects from other districts of Bengal; but my reading of the history of this area does not lead me to quite the same conclusions as to the causes of the desolation of the country as those set forth by you. You attribute it to inundations of the greater part of the land which is suitable for plough cultivation. I am assured, however, that the lands best suited to plough cultivation are high and are not ordinarily subject to flooding. I am disposed to take the view that the origin of the desolation of which you speak is to be found in the raiding proclivities of the tribes which dwelt in the neighbouring mountains. And this view finds support, I think, from the fact that now, that such raids no longer take place, plough cultivation is becoming rapidly

extended. I have, indeed, read with much satisfaction and pleasure that part of Mr. Ascoli's report which tells of the splendid crops of paddy and other produce which are yielded by the soil under the influence of the plough. Paddy land which gives an average of more than 50 maunds to the acre is well calculated to excite envy.

It is true, of course, that the cadastral survey has resulted in an increase in the total rent demanded. That, indeed, was one of the main objects of the survey, and the results of the survey plainly show that before it was undertaken there must have been a good deal of cultivation being carried on without any rent being paid at all—to the disadvantage not only of Government, but of the Chiefs and headmen as well. But when you state that the survey has increased the land rent enormously, I find it necessary to assert that the rates of rent are as a matter of fact extremely low, and to prove my assertion by quoting the actual figures. The total revenue from plough rents is Rs. 75,000, and the area recorded as being under plough cultivation is 42,000 acres, so that the average nominal rate at which rent is charged is well under Rs. 2 an acre. In accordance with calculations made by Mr. Ascoli the value of the gross produce of an acre is at least Rs. 125; so that the rent charged is a very small fraction indeed of the value of the land. Moreover, I notice from Mr. Ascoli's report that sub-tenants readily pay rent to their lessor at ten times the

rate charged by Government. Under these circumstances Government, I think, may well be amazed at their own moderation. I do not, of course, deny that here as elsewhere there has been some economic distress. But so far as I am able to judge such distress occurs mainly among those who are dependent on juming carried on in an unscientific and wasteful manner. You make reference to the increasing difficulties which are arising in connection with the juming system in paragraph 8 of your address and it will be convenient if I mention here the steps which I propose to take to deal with these difficulties. The better regulation of juming and the introduction of more scientific methods of cultivation are, indeed, essential features of the scheme of administrative reform which we have now under consideration. As a first and very important step, then, I intend establishing an agricultural farm in the Hill Tracts and appointing a district agricultural officer to investigate local agricultural problems. Provision for the expenditure which will be required for these two purposes will be made in the budget for next year. In the meantime I have brought with me the Deputy Director of Agriculture from Dacca who will make preliminary enquiries as to the lines upon which the farm should be run and decide upon the matter of the land which will be required for the purpose. I have great hopes that these measures will result in a more economical use of the land and in a vast

improvement in the methods of its cultivation, which in their turn will go far to mitigate the economic difficulties from which the jumias at present suffer.

Now let me turn for a moment to the various other matters to which you desire to call my attention.

I note what you say with regard to the actual question of administration. One of the main objects of my visit is, as you have realized, to examine the whole matter on the spot, and I hope that as a result of my visit a solution will be arrived at which will add to the happiness and the welfare of all classes in the Hill Tracts.

I agree with you as to the importance of improving the main communications of the district with the plains of Bengal. The cost of converting the 23 miles of bridle road from Raozan to Rangamati to a road for wheeled traffic is estimated at Rs. 2,35,000. I regret that at present we have no such sum which we could devote to this purpose, but the matter is one which shall certainly be kept in mind. I am sorry that you have had to wait so long for a beginning to be made with a good water-supply. As a result of Lord Carmichael's promise to you in 1915 a scheme was drawn up estimated to cost half-a-lakh of rupees. I have ascertained that owing to the increased cost of material due to the war the scheme is now likely to cost approximately Rs. 72,000. No provision has been made for this in the budget of the current year;



but I fully realize the importance of the matter, and also the patience with which you have waited for better times, and I am, therefore, prepared to give you my promise that provision shall be made for it in the budget of next year.

I have looked into the number of female patients treated at the hospital and I am satisfied that the services of a certified midwife are urgently needed. The Medical Department of Government have been requested to take this matter up in consultation with the Commissioner, and I hope that your request in this connection will shortly be complied with.

The whole question of education in the Hill Tracts is at present under the consideration of the Education Department, and I can only state my views provisionally. The comparative slowness in the development of primary education seems to me to have been due largely to indifference on the part of the people themselves. I am told that this apathy is due, in part at any rate, to their dislike of having their children taught by other than hill-men. That being so, we are endeavouring, as a first step, to increase the number of hill teachers. We are encouraging the increase of *Guru*-training schools; and under existing arrangements we guarantee every man who passes the training examination at Ranigamati a salary of Rs. 20. With a steady increase in the supply of hill teachers, I confidently look forward to an increase in the number of children attending primary schools; and where the

people show a genuine desire to open new schools, Government will gladly assist with a grant. The question of technical education is one of great interest in the Hill Tracts. I have heard great accounts of the aptitude shown by the hill people for drawing and for carpentry. It is all the more astonishing then to learn that there are hardly any indigenous carpenters in the district and that such things as furniture for the schools have to be imported from Chittagong. Timber, the raw material of the carpenter's industry, is plentiful, and it would seem, therefore, that what is required to produce within its own borders all the carpenters and all the products of carpentry that the district requires, is suitable organization. What precise form the necessary organization should take, I am not at the moment prepared to say. But that a decision should be come to without delay I am firmly convinced. I am requesting the Education Department to give the matter their early attention, and I trust that before long something will be done to enable the people to develop to their profit the manual skill with which they are undoubtedly endowed.

Now I have dealt with all the matters which you have brought to my notice, and it remains for me only to thank you once more for the warmth of your welcome and for the kind wishes which you express at the conclusion of your address.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Police Parade,  
Dacca, on 11th August 1919.***

Another year has rolled by since I last addressed you and presented medals and rewards to those who had rendered conspicuous service to the State in the discharge of their onerous and often difficult duties. The year, I am happy to say, has been devoid of the sensational and tragic episodes which only too often have marked the yearly record of Police work in this Presidency—episodes such as those which found mention in my address to you last year. Upon this absence of anarchical crime I offer my wholehearted congratulations not to the Police Force only—though they deserve and I believe have earned the gratitude of all for the part which they have played in bringing about the recent improvement in this respect—but to the people of the Presidency as well.

But though, as I have said, the year has not been marked by any sensational episode of this kind, it has been a hard one for the Bengal Police Force in the discharge of their daily duties. The high prices which have prevailed during the period have inevitably tended to an increase in such crime as dacoity and *hat* looting; and it is to the credit of the Police that crime of this kind has been successfully controlled, and its spreading prevented. With the exception of the Rajshahi Division, where

unusual distress was caused by the floods of last year, there has been no such appreciable increase in this class of crime as might not unnaturally have been expected. Then again I am not unmindful of the hardship which the Police themselves suffer in common with others owing to prevailing high prices; and in particular I would express my satisfaction at the way in which the clerical staff have borne their troubles and have continued to work cheerfully often, I am afraid, at very high pressure. I am glad to think that Government have been able to give some small measure of relief to the subordinate ranks by the allowance recently granted as a temporary expedient to officers drawing salaries of not more than Rs. 50 a month. We are doing our best gradually to improve the conditions of service of the Force, and a scheme for raising the reserve of constables, which is now being given effect to, will enable us to be more generous in the granting of leave. Our hope that steady improvement in the conditions of service will result in attracting a steadily increasing number of local men to the Force, receives encouragement from the figures of enlistments during the past year, which show that 1,847 recruits or 63 per cent. of the total were Bengalis. This is the highest percentage of Bengalis enlisted in the Police Force for many years past, and I find in it a source of real satisfaction.

It is gratifying to be able to state that throughout a year of great strain and stress no single comment of an unfavourable character has

been made upon the conduct of the Police by the High Court or by any Court of Sessions; while rewards in cash and in good service marks have been earned by no less than 7,349 officers and men as compared with 5,426 during the preceding twelve months. Those to whom I am about to hand the King's Police Medal have without exception shown that they place a higher value upon the accomplishment of their duty even than upon the preservation of their lives. There is no higher tribute that I can pay them than that. They provide outstanding examples of courage and devotion to duty which must kindle the admiration of their colleagues throughout the Force and excite in them a desire worthily to live up to so splendid a tradition.

I have but one word more. This is the first occasion upon which members of the public have been ranged up alongside members of the Police Force at a Police Parade for the purpose of receiving rewards in recognition of valuable assistance rendered by them to the Police in the performance of their duty. I hope it will not be the last. There is nothing which could give me greater satisfaction than to see a steadily increasing measure of co-operation between the public and the Police. And for this reason it affords me particular pleasure to take this opportunity of publicly marking my appreciation of the sense of civic duty which these gentlemen have so courageously displayed.

***His Excellency's Addresses to the Recipients of  
King's Police Medals at the Police Parade,  
Dacca, on 11th August 1919.***

MR. BRIAN WARDLE,

You displayed conspicuous gallantry and risked your life in dealing with some armed desperadoes.

INSPECTOR PHANINDRA KUMAR BASU,

You have done exceptionally valuable detective work and shown absolute fearlessness and great devotion to duty.

INSPECTOR HAZARI LAL MUKHARJI,

You rendered special services in dealing with the outbreak of *hat* looting in Jessore towards the end of 1917 and it was chiefly owing to your efforts that the disturbance did not spread throughout the district, and that the cases were brought to a successful conclusion. You were in direct charge of three of these cases, and the Special Tribunal have recorded their high appreciation of your services.

INSPECTOR BIJOY NARAYAN BASU,

You have proved yourself a very useful and reliable officer and have done most meritorious detective work in important and dangerous cases.

INSPECTOR AMRITA LAL BHATTACHARJI,

You have fearlessly carried out duties which have exposed you to considerable personal risk

and have done most useful work, especially in effecting the arrest of a notorious character.

INSPECTOR PRAFULLA KUMAR BISWAS,

You have done exceptionally good work and shown great devotion to duty at the risk of your life.

INSPECTOR BASANTA KUMAR MUKHARJI,

You have done exceptionally valuable work at great personal risk and displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

SUB-INSPECTOR NITYANANDA NANDI,

Towards the end of 1917 an outbreak of *hat* looting occurred in your jurisdiction and, accompanied only by a few subordinates, you faced a mob of several thousand persons and by your tact and courage averted the looting of the *hat*. You displayed conspicuous bravery and incurred great personal risk in saving property and preventing crime. Your efforts in collecting evidence against the leaders of the mob had the effect of putting a stop to further looting in your jurisdiction.

SUB-INSPECTOR RASIK LAL BASU,

Though a very junior officer, you have done exceptionally valuable detective work and have shown great devotion to duty. You have been instrumental in effecting the arrest of several dangerous characters.

***His Excellency's Addresses to the Recipients of  
Badges and Sanads at the Darbar at Dacca,  
on 14th August 1919..***

MR. CHRISTIAN TINDALL, C.I.E.,

By Command of His Majesty the King-Emperor, you have been appointed a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. It gives me great pleasure to present you with the Badge of the Order, and I congratulate you on the distinction which you have earned by your unremitting energy and by your especially meritorious and arduous service during the past two years. I hope you may long be spared to enjoy the distinction conferred upon you.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULVI ABUL FAZL MUHAMMAD  
HAFIZULLA,

During the ten years you have been in Dacca you have established your position as one of the leading Maulvis in Eastern Bengal. Your reputation as an Arabic scholar extends throughout Upper India. I congratulate you upon the honour which your scholarship and attainments have so deservedly won for you.

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT SHASHIBHUSAN  
SMRITIRATNA,

You have won renown as a teacher of Sanskrit and, as President of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj, you have done much to foster and



inspire its study. I have much pleasure in delivering to you the *Sanad* of your title.

MR. WILLIAM STENNING HOPKYNs, O.B.E.,

By Command of His Majesty the King-Emperor you have been appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. You showed conspicuous energy and enthusiasm in raising money for War charities and your successful organization on their behalf resulted in very material assistance to those funds.

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the Badge of the Order, and I congratulate you on the distinction, which may you live long to enjoy.

RAI PYARI LAL DAS BAHADUR, M.B.E.,

By Command of His Majesty the King-Emperor you have been appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. It gives me great pleasure to present you with the Badge of the Order. You took a leading part in the organization and collection of contributions towards various War Relief Funds and your work was of the greatest value.

I congratulate you upon the honour which has been conferred upon you and I trust that you may long be spared to enjoy it.

MR. MILTON LEACH, M.B.E.,

By Command of His Majesty the King-Emperor you have been appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

As Superintendent of the Dacca Central Jail, you did much valuable War work and rendered especially conspicuous service by the manufacture and supply of blankets for the Army.

I congratulate you on the distinction which you have earned and I hope you may enjoy it for many years to come.

MR. KHAGENDRA CHANDRA NAG, M.B.A.,

By Command of His Majesty the King-Emperor you have been appointed a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. It gives me great pleasure to present you with the Badge of the Order. As Secretary of the Mymensingh Recruiting Committee, you did excellent work, and I congratulate you on the distinction which your services have earned. May you live long to enjoy it.

KHAN BAHADURS AND RAI BAHADURS,

It has given me much pleasure to present to you the *Sanads* of your titles.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ASAD-UZ-ZAMAN,

You have done excellent work as a member of the Provincial Civil Service. During the last four years you have been closely connected with the Co-operative movement, first as Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and now as Joint Registrar in charge of Co-operative work in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, in both of which capacities your work has been most valuable.

RAI SHARAT KISHORE BASU BAHADUR,

You served Government long and well in the Judicial Department and in recognition of your meritorious work this title has been conferred upon you.

RAI JOGENDRA NATH MITRA BAHADUR,

For more than seven years you held with great credit the post of Teacher of Surgery in the Dacca Medical School; and for the past eighteen months you have officiated as Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh, where you have done so much to equip and improve the Hospital.

RAI SARODA CHARAN GHOSH BAHADUR,

You have discharged your duties as Government Pleader of Mymensingh for the past 24 years with marked ability and you have further shown your public spirit as Chairman of the Co-operative Town Bank and Director of the Central Bank, Mymensingh.

KHAN BAHADUR AND RAI BAHADURS,

I congratulate each of you very heartily on the honour that has been conferred upon you and I trust you may live long to enjoy it.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize-giving,  
Dacca Medical School, on 19th August 1919.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Major Gourlay has been good enough to refer to my presence here to-day as an indication of the interest which I take in the progress of medical education. It is, indeed, one of the matters to which I attach paramount importance. How could it be otherwise?

We have in Bengal a vast population of 45 millions, living mainly in villages and subject in special degree to a number of diseases which find an all too favourable environment in a semi-tropical climate and a water-logged soil. One of the crying needs of a people so situated is a network of well-trained general practitioners, covering the country from end to end.

Opinions have differed as to the means by which this desirable end should be achieved. Some would rely mainly upon the *Hakim* and the *Kaviraj*; others would seek to turn out a cheaper type of doctor so to speak by starting schools which should impart the science of Western medicine through the agency of the vernacular tongue. While I do not wish to speak with any disrespect of the *Yunani* or *Ayurvedic* systems nor to discount unduly the future possibilities of incorporating the terminology of Western science into the vernacular tongue, I am bound to say

that in neither of these two courses do I see the solution of the problem which lies before us. The policy, which I believe to be the right one and, which has been adopted by the Government of Bengal, is to add steadily to the number of men with a thorough, though not an unnecessarily high or specialized knowledge of Western medicine, acquired through the medium of the English language. Those who advocate teaching through the vernacular do not always realize, perhaps, the difficulty which medical men, with no knowledge of English, would have in keeping their knowledge up to date, owing to the lack of current scientific literature in the vernaculars of this country. Very well, that being the policy which we have deliberately adopted, we have to do our best to give effect to it. I think I may claim, that in spite of the heavy handicap imposed upon us by the war, and the extreme difficulty which we have experienced in consequence, in finding money for new enterprises, we have made an appreciable advance in carrying out our policy during the past two years. We have improved and enlarged our medical schools. At the Campbell School in Calcutta, we have made provision for training 500 students in place of the 350 which was the sanctioned number two years ago. In the same way we have made arrangements for training 400 students here in place of the 250 which was the sanctioned strength two years ago. And we are still further adding to the provision for training men for the Licentiate Examination by

establishing a new medical school to accommodate 200 students at Burdwan. The public are sometimes apt to forget that before you can establish a medical school you must have adequate hospital accommodation, so that the theory of medicine taught in the lecture halls and class rooms may be seen by the student in its practical application. The two things go together—schools and hospitals, theory and practice. It is with some satisfaction, then, that I look back upon the changes which have been wrought in the Mitford Hospital during the past two years. On my first arrival in this city I received an address from the People's Association in which they prayed that the hospital might be converted into a Government institution.

Thanks to the hearty assistance and co-operation of my Hon'ble colleague Sir Henry Wheeler the buildings have now been placed on the books of the Public Works Department and the hospital authorities relieved of the cost of their maintenance; and for some time past I have been watching new and imposing buildings growing up in the grounds, both of the hospital and of the school.

The two new wings which have been added to the north of the school building since I was last here, I hope to inspect this morning. To sum up, then, Government have already provided medical educational institutions which in the year 1917-18 were training 1,775 students, and which in the same year turned out 199 qualified

doctors. I estimate that the number of qualified doctors turned out by the Government institutions will rise in the course of the next few years to 250 a year, in addition to which there will be the output of the Belgachia institution which will, probably, average at least 50 a year. We shall have then before long a steady stream of 300 newly qualified medical practitioners seeking opportunities of work every year. How are we to attract them to the villages, where their knowledge and skill are so badly required? The problem is not an easy one. You cannot expect a man who has undergone an exacting and, comparatively speaking, expensive course of training to settle down in the villages unless he sees a prospect of building up a practice which is sufficient to secure him a reasonable living. I believe that a keen and energetic doctor will make a comfortable living in the country districts if once he can make a start. The thing is to encourage him to make a start; and it is here that local self-governing bodies may, perhaps, be able to help. The District Board of Jessore are making the experiment of subsidising doctors for a definite period on condition among other things, that they agree to practise in a specified area during the term of their contract. It is hoped that this will enable them to make a start and to build up a sufficient practice to support them unaided by the time the subsidy comes to an end. I notice, too, that a resolution advocating a similar policy by Union Boards is to be discussed

at the Conference of Presidents of Panchayats and Chairmen of Union Committees of this district to be held to-morrow.

At any rate, I hope most sincerely that a large portion of those who are now being trained in this school will, when they leave it, carry the knowledge and skill which they acquire here to the relief of their suffering fellowmen in the country side. They will find there a tremendous field of opportunity for dedicating their lives to the service of their motherland.



***His Excellency's Speech at the Panchayats' Conference held at Dacca, on 20th August 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

This is the third annual Conference of Presidents of Panchayats and Chairmen of Union Committees which I have had the pleasure of attending; and I am more convinced than ever of the usefulness of such gatherings. In the first place, they enable you to meet together and to discuss informally with one another the varied experience which you gain in the daily work of village administration. In the second place, they bring into the lime-light the work done by different Unions, and the good example of the more progressive and energetic bodies undoubtedly helps to stimulate those which show a tendency to lag behind. In other words, they evoke a healthy spirit of competition. And last, but by no means least, they enable you to make known to Government frankly and without reservation your views and desires in regard to a variety of matters affecting the daily lives of the people of which you have so intimate and so personal a knowledge. A glance at the resolutions passed at the Conferences of the past two years and at the action taken upon them will show that the views which you express are treated with consideration and respect. For example,

provision has been made in the Village Self-Government Act for giving effect to a number of proposals put forward in the shape of resolutions at the Conferences held in 1917 and last year. In particular for the appointment of Vice-Presidents of Union Boards; for the amalgamation of the functions of the Panchayats and of the Union Committees in a single body of which the majority of the members will be elected; and for the creation of Union Benches and Union Courts. And besides the attention which has thus been paid by Government to the resolutions which you have passed, action has also been taken on them by the local officials and by the District Board. I have looked through the list of subjects which you have had under your consideration this afternoon, and I have been greatly interested to find that suggestions which have been made for extending primary education proceed on much the same lines as those which we have recently adopted in the Primary Education Act which became law this year. That Act is to be applied in the first instance to Municipalities; but we have power to extend it to rural areas, and the views which you express with regard to the matter in the report of your Conference to-day will certainly be carefully weighed by Government when they consider what further action they should take in this respect. Then again I am glad to see that you have had under discussion the question of recruitment for the Bengalee Regiment which we hope to see become a permanent unit in the Indian Army; and also the

very important question of effecting the destruction of water hyacinth. There is one other suggestion down on your agenda paper in which I am keenly interested, namely, that of offering a subsidy with a view to attracting qualified resident medical officers to every Union. The villagers badly want good doctors. Good doctors are now being turned out every year by the Government medical schools. The difficulty is to persuade them to settle down in the villages. The proposal that Union Boards should offer them a subsidy at any rate until they have had time to build up a private practice, seems to me to offer by far the most hopeful prospect of a solution of the problem.

Now let me turn for a moment to the work of the past year. Thirty-one new Union Committees have been formed since I last addressed you and there is now a total of 74 in this district. The best test of the earnestness and the sense of responsibility of the Union Committees of a district is to be found in the extent to which they make use of section 118C, of the Local Self-Government Act. That section, as every one interested in local self-government knows, permits a Union Committee to levy taxation for the purpose of effecting village improvement. It is gratifying to find that of the 43 old committees, all but seven levied taxes under this section last year. I was a little surprised to find that six out of these seven committees were situated in the subdivision of Munshiganj. I hope that the spirit of healthy rivalry, which I have

mentioned as one of the beneficial results of these conferences, will bring about a change in this respect before next year, and that when you meet here again, as I hope you will, there will no longer be any cause for according to Muñshiganj this unenviable notoriety.

Let me point now to three examples of the advantages of village self-government. One undoubted advantage is to be found in its economy. The expense of the middleman is almost entirely got rid of. The ordinary practice of the committees in this district, at any rate, is to delegate one of their own number to engage and supervise the necessary labour, while another undertakes the work of inspection. Besides which office expenses are reduced to a minimum by the Chairman undertaking the accounts and correspondence himself.

Another advantage is that it provides the only possible solution of the problem of securing to the vast mass of the people an adequate supply of good water. As an example of how this problem can be tackled, let me mention the work of two committees, those of Baira and Manikganj. These bodies have been in existence for only three years; and during that time the former has constructed 11 and the latter 15 *pucka* wells. Now imagine the whole of Bengal covered by a net work of Union Committees like those of Baira and Manikganj. Why, the whole huge problem of the rural water-supply would be solved as if by the stroke of a magician's wand.

The third advantage of which I make mention to-day is to be found in the uses in the interest of the community at large to which members of Union Committees can put such influence as their local knowledge and their position in the neighbourhood give them. I can best illustrate what I mean by a concrete example. In the Teghoria Union there was at one time a road known as the Raj-halat. As sometimes happens in Bengal, this road disappeared. For the distance of a full mile and-a-half it was in fact swallowed up in the holdings of neighbouring landholders. That may have been a good thing from the point of view of the encroaching landholders; but it was a very bad thing from the point of view of every one else who was deprived of the use of the road. I can imagine the time, the trouble and the expense in which every one would have been involved if the matter had been taken into the courts, and even then perhaps, the road might not have been restored. But the matter was not taken to the courts. Everything was put right by a member of the Teghoria Union Committee, Babu Purṇa Chandra Saha, who himself surveyed the line of the old road and secured the restoration of the whole of it to the public.

So much for the past. What of the future? Village self-government here is in its infancy. Its progress and expansion have been hampered by the restrictions of defective legislation. But I believe that it is only through the agency of a network of Union Boards that we shall be able to make a real

and substantial stride forward along the road which leads to that goal upon which every lover of his country must set his gaze, namely, the gradual building up of conditions in rural areas which will conduce to a happy, a healthy and a contented people. And it is because of my belief that I have striven almost from the first day that I reached this Presidency as its Governor, so to amend the law as to place village self-government upon a sound statutory basis. On the 9th April last, two years almost to a day since I had first taken up the question, the Village Self-Government Bill completed its passage through the Legislative Council and is now the law of the land. That is undoubtedly a land-mark of outstanding importance in the history of village self-government in this Presidency.

The Village Self-Government Act of 1919 is the villager's charter; and it is now for you to put to the best use the new rights and powers which it confers upon you.

***His Excellency's Address to the Maharaja of Hill Tippera in investing him with the title of hereditary Maharaja, on 22nd August 1919.***

MAHARAJA MANIKYA BIRENDRA KISHORE DEB BARMAN BAHADUR, MAHARAJA OF HILL TIPPERA,

It is a matter of great personal pleasure to me that I am privileged to-day to invest Your Highness with the title of Maharaja, which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has been pleased to confer upon you as a hereditary distinction.

Your State and its Rulers have long been conspicuous by their loyalty to the Throne and Person of the King-Emperor. Your Highness has worthily maintained this tradition and at the outbreak of the great War, which is now happily over, you immediately came forward and placed your resources and those of your State unreservedly at the disposal of His Majesty's Government. I sincerely hope that the blessings of peace may give to your State that material progress, which Your Highness has so much at heart, and that Your Highness's endeavours to develop its resources may now be crowned with success.

I trust that Your Highness may live long to enjoy this distinction and that under your wise guidance the State may increase in prosperity year by year.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the New  
Catcherry at Agartala, on 22nd August 1919.***

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I am delighted to think that my visit to Your Highness's State has been signalised by the completion of this important Government building. Your Highness has long appreciated the fact that the buildings which have hitherto served the purpose of offices for the headquarters staff at this the seat of Government, have scarcely been worthy of Your Highness's capital. And Your Highness must also have been impressed with the knowledge that such buildings are uneconomical in the long run by reason of the fact that they require the expenditure of considerable sums annually in repairs. Indeed it was realized so far back as the year 1907 that a more durable structure was required and it was in that year that orders issued for the work to be commenced. It must have been a source of grave disappointment to you that the completion of the building should have been so frequently interrupted by a succession of adverse circumstances, culminating in the disastrous earthquake of last year. And I offer you my sincere congratulations upon the fact that you are now able to invite me to open the main portion of the building.



***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of the Foundation-stone of the Khas Adalat, Agartala, on 22nd August 1919.***

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I much appreciate the fact that I have been invited to lay the foundation-stone of a building, which in due course will form a worthy edifice for the dispensation of justice. I have now in the course of my two visits to Your Highness's State had the pleasure of being associated with three important enterprises—the Khas Adalat and the Government offices on this occasion, and the Ronaldshay Road on the occasion of my previous visit. I am particularly glad to think that it is with an important high road in the heart of Your Highness's State that my name is linked, because at a time when the resources of a country are being developed on a systematic scale there is nothing which is of more importance to it than its communications. I have followed with sympathy and with interest the reports which have reached me from time to time of Your Highness's interest in the development of the latent resources of the State. I am convinced that great possibilities exist in the development of such industries as the tea industry, the cultivation of cotton, the production of tanning materials and in the exploitation of the products of the splendid forests which cover so large a part of Your Highness's dominions. But in order to

take advantage of these natural resources it is essential that suitable communications should be provided. It was with great satisfaction that I learned of the sanction which had been accorded to the Assam-Bengal Railway Company to make a survey for a line from Akhaura to Birendranagar. The construction of such a railway will, I feel sure, be of immense benefit to the State ; but its construction will naturally depend upon the existence of feeder roads along which the produce of the State can be conveyed to it. I feel sure that Your Highness will devote the same keen personal attention to this important matter as you have done to the planning and construction of the buildings, which I have had the pleasure of associating myself with to-day. I shall now have much pleasure in laying the foundation-stone of the High Court of Agartala.

*Address presented at Sirajganj, on  
29th August 1919.*

We, the Commissioners of the Municipality, the members of the Local Board, and the members of the Anjuman-i-Islamia, Sirajganj, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency on behalf of the people of Sirajganj to accord you a hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to our town, and to express our deep sense of loyalty to the British Government and to His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor. We feel proud to belong to an Empire which evoked universal respect and admiration by the righteousness of its aim in the recent great War enabling it to secure cordial co-operation of most of the great nations of the Earth in its efforts to place on a safe footing the claim of all nations, great or small, to live and develop by crushing German militarism which became a menace to the cause of freedom and progress of all mankind. One of the redeeming features of the destructive struggle, so far as India was concerned, was the opportunity it gave to her to show to England and to the rest of the world her loyal devotion to the British Rule and readiness to offer all her resources in men and money in the achievement of England's success and thereby to establish her own claim to, and fitness for, a situation of honour and equality in the great Empire. It gives us great

joy to see that England, with all her boundless potentialities and wonderful powers of organization, has ultimately secured the triumph and left to history to record an example of national virtues to be admired and emulated by the posterity for all time to come.

2. The jute trade mainly to which Sirajganj has hitherto owed its fame and fortune, would have received an impetus from the opening of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway but for the great War which has paralysed the trade; and most of the firms engaged in jute business are in consequence faced with a problem of life and death. We beg earnestly to crave interference of Your Excellency's benign Government to relieve this situation by regulating the price of jute between the abnormal profiteering by the mill-owners on one side and the sale at less than cost price by the starving producers on the other. An early measure for this end and, if possible, for the general improvement of the jute market is urgently called for by the extraordinary situation in East Bengal where all classes of people, directly or indirectly, have to depend on jute as the main source of their income. The enormous rise of price of ordinary necessities of life on the one hand and the abnormally low price of jute on the other have sorely pressed all classes and cast a gloom over the whole of East Bengal.

3. The proposed creation of a new subdivision at Bhangura is calculated largely to reduce the

status of Sirajganj commercially and otherwise. We, therefore, venture to point out that this idea of creating another subdivision in the district, which was conceived in pre-railway time, should be wholly abandoned now as Sirajganj has been brought within easy reach of almost all places within the subdivision by the opening of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway, and branch railways connecting this main line with Bera through Pabna on one side and with Bogra through Chandaikona on the other, will bring every part of the district into easy communication with Pabna or Sirajganj. The scheme of such branch lines, though so long in abeyance, will, we hope, soon materialise now that the war has happily terminated.

4. 'This subdivision' counts 16 high English schools within its jurisdiction turning out on the average about 200 matriculates every year. For them and for others to start a second-grade college here is a crying local need emphasized by the fact that the existing colleges cannot adequately cope with the increasing demand for admission.

5. 'One of the main causes of the decline of the trade of Sirajganj is the silting up of its waterways. The Katakhal, the only direct approach from the Brahmaputra, the Telkupikhal which brings into Sirajganj supplies of jute and other commodities from the interior of the subdivision and from the Bogra side, and the Dhanbandi

river on which the mercantile town is situated, have all been greatly silted up. These channels also serve as feeder lines to Sara-Sirajganj Railway. Unless steps be taken to remove silts from their beds every year, Sirajganj will not get back its former position as a trade centre nor will there be a proper flushing of the town and its neighbourhood, a necessary factor for the preservation of sanitation.

6. We shall deem it a favour if Your Excellency be pleased to empower the Civil Courts of Sirajganj to try cases up to the value of Rs. 2,000. This power was formerly possessed by the courts here. Sirajganj being an important trade centre, numerous cases arise here of greater value than Rs. 1,000 which is the present limit of the court.

7. The present high rate of railway freights, particularly of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway, adversely affects the trade of the town and also contributes to the high prices of foodstuff and clothing. We, therefore, pray that the freights may be reduced at an early date to the normal rate prevailing before the war. We also pray for an early reduction of railway passenger fares to pre-war rate.

8. Of the eight lakhs of inhabitants of this subdivision about six lakhs are cultivators. These on account of ignorance of principles of cultivation suffer immensely. In order to give them scientific training in cultivation, we earnestly pray that

Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to open an agricultural school and a farm in this subdivision.

9. The members of the Local Board wish especially to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the scarcity of good drinking water has always been very keenly felt by the people of this subdivision. The District Board cannot give adequate help in the matter for want of funds. They, therefore, earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to grant a suitable sum for the construction of a sufficient number of *pucka* wells throughout the subdivision.

10. The members of the Anjuman-i-Islamia beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the Sirajganj Senior Madrassa, which is the only institution of its kind in the whole Rajshahi Division, has long been enjoying a Government grant of Rs. 300 a month, and the Government has been pleased to sanction a building grant of Rs. 28,000, provided the local contribution comes up to Rs. 14,000. A piece of land measuring about 18 bighas has already been acquired for the purpose. But as the last war, which has only been terminated on the other day in a victorious peace in favour of our beloved Sovereign and his Allies, told very heavily upon the purse of the poor Moslem community, the Madrassa Committee have only been able to contribute so far about Rs. 6,680 towards the cost of the building. Now as the Madrassa has been suffering

much for want of proper accommodation and housing, the members of the Anjuman-i-Islamia beg leave to approach Your Excellency on this subject in the hope that Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to advance from the sanctioned grant at least double the amount already contributed by the Madrassa Committee, so that the work of the construction of the proposed building may begin just after the rains.

11. In conclusion, we beg again to offer a most cordial reception to Your Excellency.



***His Excellency's Reply to the Address presented  
at Sirajganj, on 29th August 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the welcome which you have accorded to me on this the occasion of my first visit to the important subdivision of Sirajganj. It was with much regret that I found myself unable to carry out my intention of coming here, when I visited the headquarters of the district last year; and it gives me all the greater satisfaction to fulfil now the promise to visit you, which circumstances prevented me from doing twelve months ago.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the sentiments of deep loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King-Emperor, which you have expressed, and also the congratulations, which you have offered to me upon the successful issue of the war. It is to be hoped that, with the final conclusion of peace, the hardships, which have been inflicted upon all humanity as a result of the war, may gradually be lightened, and that the heavy burden, which the world has borne for so long, may be lifted from our shoulders. Let me now turn to a consideration of the various matters to which you desire to call my attention.

I am well aware of the importance to Sirajganj of the jute trade, and I am also aware that in common with every one else the jute-grower and the jute-merchant have suffered from the abnormal

conditions brought about by the war. But when you tell me that "the trade has been paralysed," and that "most of the firms engaged in jute business are faced with a problem of life and death," I feel constrained to join issue with you and to point out that no such gloomy conclusions are warranted by the facts.

The average price of jute at Sirajganj during the past ten years works out at about Rs. 7 a maund. It is true that during the last two years the price has been somewhat below this average and that at the beginning of the present year it ranged between Rs. 4 and Rs. 6. But it is equally true that more recently jute has been sold here at the unprecedented price of Rs. 18 a maund; and though the actual quantity sold at this price may not have been great, the general level of prices during the past few weeks has been higher than ever before during the whole history of the jute trade of Bengal. Your suggestion to me is that Government should step in and regulate the price. A similar suggestion was made not long ago at a meeting of the Legislative Council, and the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming explained fully on that occasion why Government were not prepared to do so. His speech obtained wide publicity and there is no need, therefore, for me to repeat the arguments which he used. I would only add to what he said, that I do not think that your proposal, that Government should undertake to regulate prices, is a very wise one from your own point of view.

If Government once accepted the responsibility of arbitrarily fixing prices irrespective of the law of supply and demand, it is very unlikely that they would be able to confine the application of the principle to cases of low prices. If they accepted the responsibility of fixing *minimum* prices when the value of any particular commodity showed a tendency to become depreciated, they could not logically refuse to fix *maximum* prices when the value of a commodity showed a tendency to become inflated. Indeed you will find that, when the Governments of other countries have considered the question of fixing prices, it has been *maximum* and not *minimum* prices that they have had in mind. It is sometimes forgotten that one of the reasons why Bengal has maintained a practical monopoly of jute up to the present time is that it has been able to produce it more cheaply than it could be produced elsewhere. If in future the price of jute shows a tendency to rise abnormally high—as it has shown some signs of doing recently—it will certainly become worth while growing it on a large scale in other countries where the conditions are suitable; and in that case pressure might be brought to bear upon Government to fix a *maximum* price with a view to maintaining for Bengal the monopoly which she now possesses. It would be very much more difficult for Government to resist such pressure, if by fixing a *minimum* price they had already admitted that the arbitrary regulation of prices was a function of Government. I have placed these considerations before you in

order to show you that a policy of regulating prices by executive order is not only one which is attended with great difficulties, but one which, if adopted, is likely sooner or later to carry those who advocate it a great deal further than they ever intended. As a matter of fact the cultivator can himself deal with the matter much more effectively than can Government. The price of rice is very high, and it is most desirable that it should come down. The price of jute, on the other hand, you say, is low, and you desire to see it increased. Both these objects can be achieved by the cultivator himself by the simple expedient of growing rather more rice and rather less jute. And there I think you would be wise to let the matter rest.

You have made some reference to a proposal which has been before the public for the creation of a new subdivision at Bhangura, and you point out that with the construction of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway and the prospect of additional branch lines being built, the necessity for a new subdivision has ceased to exist. I agree with you that the construction of railways has an important bearing upon the case. There is, in any case, no prospect of a new subdivision being formed at present; and, should the question come up for decision in the future, the matter will be reconsidered in the light of the views expressed by the public and also of the change brought about in the situation by the development of railways.

You speak of the necessity of a second-grade college at Sirajganj; but, so far as I can ascertain,

no proposal for the creation of such a college has ever been submitted either to the University or to Government. In any case the whole question of Intermediate education will have to be reconsidered in the light of the recommendations of the University Commission; and decisions will have to be come to upon the very important and far-reaching proposals of the Commission, before Government can make itself responsible for additional colleges under the existing system.

The question of clearing the silt from the beds of the Katakhal, the Telkupikhal and the Dhanbandi River is a much more complicated matter than might at first sight appear, and is one, moreover, with a considerable history behind it. At the request of the steamer companies certain portions of these waterways were notified by Government in the year 1915 under section 2 of the Canals Act of 1864 as navigable channels, and the companies were authorized to take steps to keep them open under section 3 of the Act. As a result of this some work has been done; but in December last the steamer companies invited Government to consider further the whole matter. We have given the matter further careful consideration, and we have decided to undertake a survey of the rivers during the coming cold weather in order to ascertain the exact conditions at present obtaining. This is essential for more reasons than one. For ~~the~~ thing the beds of the *khals* connecting the main river with the town are at a much higher level than the river bed; and, if the beds

of the *khals* were deepened unduly, the course of the river itself might be deflected and untold damage might result. In some cases, too, the question of the ownership of the beds of the waterways comes into question. In the meantime we have informed the steamer companies that we are willing to permit them to carry out any reasonable improvements under the supervision of the Irrigation Department of Government and to afford them a reasonable subvention for the purpose.

With regard to your request that the Civil Courts of Sirajganj should be empowered to try cases up to the value of Rs. 2,000, I would point out that this is a matter for the decision of the High Court and not of Government, and that your submission should be made to the High Court through the District Judge.

You ask that an agricultural farm and school may be established in the subdivision. The policy of Government is to establish farms at every district headquarters, and in pursuance of this policy steps have already been taken to establish one at your own district headquarters at Pabna. I am afraid we cannot consider the establishment of farms at subdivisional headquarters as well, at any rate until we have made greater progress with our programme in the districts. So far as giving practical agricultural education to the cultivating classes is concerned, we are establishing two agricultural middle schools as an experimental

measure, one at the central farm at Dacca and the other at the farm at Chinsura. It is impossible yet to say whether such schools will justify themselves and it is too early, therefore, to consider any extension of the experiment. We shall have to wait and be guided by results.

The question of wells is one for the District Board. As you are aware, Government handed over the Public Works Cess to them for this purpose among others not very long ago; and I notice that the Pabna District Board has been spending a large portion of the cess on the construction of wells. Moreover, I am assured that if you require more wells in the subdivision and can supply facts and figures showing the necessity for them, together with an estimate of the cost, the District Board will do their best to help you.

The last matter to which you invite my attention is the scheme for the reconstruction of the Sirajganj Senior Madrassa. I regret that you have been unable to contribute the amount which would entitle you to receive the promised building grant from Government of Rs. 28,000. It seems that there is little prospect of your being able to do this and you will be well advised, I think, to adopt the suggestion which has now been made to you by Mr. Oaten that the Committee should adopt a scheme on somewhat more moderate lines than the one originally put forward. If the Committee are prepared to do this, Government will make a special concession in their case with a view to

reconstructing the existing Madrassa without delay. If the Committee can put up a plan, which the Public Works Department can sanction, at a cost, say, of Rs. 25,000, inclusive of the value of the land, Government will provide the balance of the sum required over and above the amount of Rs. 6,680 which has been raised by voluntary subscription. This will involve a contribution from Government in excess of the ratio of two to one allowed by the rules. But we recognize the importance of having the Madrassa properly accommodated with as little delay as possible, and we hope that the Committee will take advantage of the offer which we have now made them.

I have now dealt with all the matters to which you have directed my attention; and it only remains for me to express once more the satisfaction which it has given me to have been able to visit this important subdivision.



***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the  
Ronaldshay Waterworks, Rajbari, on, 30th  
August 1919.***

GENTLEMEN—

It gives me sincere pleasure to be present among you this afternoon for the purpose of opening the waterworks which we all hope are going to prove of great benefit to the town.

Mr. Alfred Bose, your energetic Subdivisional Officer, has given us an interesting account of the causes which drove the headquarters of the subdivision away from Goalundo on the river bank to the inland site which they now occupy; and he has reminded us that it is owing to this change in site that the necessity for constructing waterworks has arisen.

The history of the Rajbari Waterworks—which I am proud to think will henceforward be known as the Ronaldshay Waterworks—is of great interest, because it affords striking proof of the fact that the vital importance of a supply of pure water is receiving ever wider recognition among the public of Bengal. It is only six or seven years ago that a proposal made by the Sanitary Engineer for a mechanical plant necessitating a capital outlay of Rs. 12,800, and a recurring charge of Rs. 100 a month was discarded as being altogether too costly. Within two or three years of this decision, however—that is to say, in September 1915—the

Rajbari Union Committee resolved that they would meet the maintenance charges by taxation; and a scheme to supply 3,000 people with 3 gallons of water a head a day was drawn up at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,500. In the meantime the prolongation of the War in Europe was resulting in a rapid increase in the cost of every kind of material and by the summer of 1917, when Government promised a grant of Rs. 10,000 towards the project, the estimated cost had risen to Rs. 25,000. By this time, however, public opinion had been awakened to the necessity of an adequate water-supply in the interests of public health, with the result that a scheme costing something like Rs. 54,000 was submitted to Government and received sanction in August of last year. Of this amount Rs. 25,000 have been subscribed by generous members of the public, Rs. 18,000 have been granted by Government and Rs. 11,000 by the District Board. I have given this brief history of the waterworks because, as I have said, it provides a striking example of the rapidly growing recognition on the part of the public, of the value of a proper water-supply. While a scheme costing less than Rs. 13,000 was dismissed only seven years ago as being too expensive, a project costing more than four times that amount has been accepted to-day and has, in fact, been carried to completion. I offer the Rajbari Union Committee my hearty congratulations upon the enterprising and persevering spirit which has enabled them to carry so considerable an undertaking to a successful issue.

An adequate supply of good water is essential to the health of any population, for many of the most disastrous forms of disease—such, for example, as Cholera—are caused by the drinking of impure water. But, as Mr. Bose has pointed out, Malaria, from which the people of this subdivision especially suffer, must be fought in other ways. Malaria can only be stamped out by the destruction of the insect which conveys it to man, namely the mosquito. And the mosquito can only be dealt with successfully by altering the conditions which make it easy for her to breed. The conditions which make it easy for her to breed are the presence of large quantities of stagnant water on the ground. If you could drain the country quite dry you could soon get rid of the mosquito. But the conditions in Bengal are such that you cannot do this. You can, however, destroy the mosquito larvæ in another way, namely, by alternately flooding the land and then draining off the flood water, which thus washes the larvæ away. It will be seen, then, that the question of public health in Bengal is very largely a question of the scientific control of the water which she possesses, in an untamed state, in so generous a measure and which in its uncontrolled state, is capable of being so destructive a foe.

‘We have to call in the skill of the Chemist and the Engineer to compel this powerful force of nature to serve us instead of to work us injury. You have already done this in one direction, by establishing these waterworks. It remains for you to see whether you cannot also do it in another

direction by compelling it to flush the larvæ of the malaria-bearing mosquito off the land. I am glad to hear that this matter is engaging the attention of Mr. Williams; and I commend it to the members of the Union Committee as the next matter to which they should devote their thought and energies.

It now remains for me only to unlock the door of the engine-house and unveil the tablet upon which are inscribed the names of the principal donors, in token of the waterworks being open. And in doing so I offer once more my hearty congratulations to the members of the Union Board who have carried through the undertaking, to the public-spirited subscribers who have made the scheme possible, and to Mr. Bose, your Sub-divisional Officer, also, for the powerful and unflagging support which he has given to it.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Scout Rally at  
St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, on 7th October  
1919.***

**MEMBERS OF THE CARMICHAEL'S OWN TROOP OF  
BOY SCOUTS.**

As President of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts Association, I have looked on with great pleasure and satisfaction at the display which you have given this morning. I congratulate you upon the manner in which you have carried out the various duties which have been assigned to you, and, in particular, upon the presence of that spirit of enthusiasm and responsibility which is as the breath of life to the true Scout movement. Your rally this morning has concluded with the investiture of a number of tenderfoots by the Chief Commissioner. I hope that they will ever bear in mind the solemn nature of the obligation which they have just taken. For when a boy becomes a member of a troop of boy scouts he is not merely becoming a member of a school team in the way that he becomes a member of a football team or a cricket team, he is becoming a member of a great brotherhood which has branches spreading not only throughout the Empire, but over the whole world.

I should like you to consider for a moment this morning what it is in the boy scout movement that has enabled it in so short a time to spread

over the whole world and become so tremendous a power for good. Had it been merely a movement for providing boys with healthy and enjoyable recreation in the open air, it would never have attracted the attention and excited the interest of the leading men of all nations as it has done, nor would it have become the world force which it undoubtedly is at the present day. No; its vitality and its success are due to the fact that, while it provides incidentally for a healthy physical development, its real goal is a moral one—the inculcation of all those qualities, discipline, self-reliance, altruism, chivalry, which go to make a man a good citizen and, in the broadest meaning of that word, a gentleman. There rests, then, a responsibility upon every scout—that, namely, of living up in his private life to the ideals of the brotherhood of which he is a member. There is also a responsibility resting upon every troop of scouts as such. It is for the troop as a whole to remember that it is responsible for maintaining the honour of the great brotherhood of which it is a unit. And there is just one thing more. The great war which has put to the test the highest qualities of mankind has given to the brotherhood of scouts a magnificent tradition. The record of the brotherhood proves that the younger boy scouts are capable of rising to the height of a great occasion and at their country's call of taking up the serious work of life; while the conduct of the older scouts who have been through the fiery ordeal of battle bears splendid witness

to the value of the scout-training. That is a tradition to be proud of and one which it should be the determination of every scout to live up to.

Perhaps I may conclude with one word to the spectators. It is not too much to say that society at large is the better for the scout movement. It is adding steadily to the world's stock of chivalry, of clean living and of high endeavour. It is a movement, therefore, which invites support from all; and to your active and constant support I consequently commend it.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Commissioners' Conference, on 13th October 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to welcome you once more to a conference on matters affecting the general well-being of the Presidency—matters upon which, with your long and intimate personal experience of the country and its needs, you are peculiarly competent to advise. The programme of subjects which will be laid before you is a varied one, including matters with so little apparent connection as, for example, the question of the diet allowance to witnesses attending Criminal Courts, and that of doubling of the number of primary schools in the next decade. Yet the programme as a whole indicates strikingly, if unintentionally, certain clearly marked lines of advance upon which Government are concentrating at the present time. Exactly half the total number of subjects which you will be asked to consider come under the category of Local Self-Government or of Public Health. It has, indeed, been my policy since I first came to Bengal to encourage advance along these two lines, partly because of the importance which each possesses on its merits, and partly because the two constitute parallel paths along which progress must be made simultaneously if it is to be in any way commensurate with our endeavours and our aspirations. Take, for example,



item number 10 on your agenda paper, the question of the introduction of compulsory vaccination. Nothing appears to be more certain than that the existing methods of dealing with vaccination in Bengal are both uneconomical and ineffective. Last year, as Dr. Bentley has pointed out, the cost of vaccination to the Presidency was Rs. 4,36,000. Yet deaths from small-pox show no signs of diminution; on the contrary they show a most disappointing increase. You will be asked to advise on the whole question, and I do not wish, therefore, to say more than that the system recently adopted in the district of Burdwan seems to me to offer a likely solution of the problem. The District Board of Burdwan, as you are, of course, aware, resolved some little time ago to undertake free vaccination throughout their area, and they appointed a first class Health Officer to take charge of this work in addition to other duties. I hope that before long we shall see first class Health Officers serving under the District Boards in every district in the Presidency, in which case it should be possible to extend the system now in force in Burdwan to other districts.

Then again, item number 14, the need of a definite water-supply policy in District Boards, raises a question of immense importance in the interests of the public health, and its solution depends upon the adoption of a rational policy by local self-governing bodies. The utter impossibility of an authority exercising jurisdiction over so large an area as a district, dealing adequately with the

matter, is well brought out by Dr. Bentley in his note on the subject. But it seems to me that the advance which we have recently made in the organization of Local Self-Government, in the shape of the Village Self-Government Act, should prove of substantial assistance in the solution of this problem. It will, at any rate, provide machinery which will make it possible to adopt the theory underlying the English practice, namely, that water-supply is essentially a matter of restricted local concern and should be paid for by those who actually benefit by it. In other words, the smaller the area in rural tracts over which rates are levied for the purpose of water-supply, the nearer do we attain to ideally just results.

It will no doubt be some time before we see the Village Self-Government Act in operation all over the Presidency; and the question of its extension is one of the matters which finds a place in your agenda paper. In this connection you will have received a useful note from Mr. K. C. De, who, as a member of the District Administration Committee, had occasion to give careful thought to the whole question of Village Self-Government. Mr. De makes it clear, I think, that under the changed conditions brought about by the Village Self-Government Act, the Local Board will become a much more important wheel in the machinery of Local Self-Government than it has been in the past. It is notorious that up to the present time, the Local Board has been something of a disappointment. That has been due, I think, in large measure

to the nature of the duties which have been assigned to it and generally to the conditions under which it has had to work.

But I share the view expressed by Mr. De in his note as to the future importance of this body. Not only will it be called upon to discharge important functions under the Village Act, but it is more than likely that it will play an important part under the provisions of the Public Health Bill which we have in contemplation, and which is one of the most important of all the matters which we are asking you to discuss. It is noticeable that both Mr. De, and Mr. Goode who has done such excellent work in drafting a Public Health Bill for consideration and discussion, each looking at the matter in a different connection, have both come to the same conclusion, that it will be desirable to reduce the area under the jurisdiction of a Local Board under the provision of section 6 of the Local Self-Government Act, 1885, as amended by Schedule I of the Village Self-Government Act, 1919. I have touched very briefly upon these important matters, but I have said enough to give point to the observation which I made a few moments ago that Government attach the highest importance to the concerting of measures for the improvement of public health; and that they look to all local self-governing bodies for assistance and co-operation in this task. Though the matter is one which is not actually a subject for consideration at this Conference, the question of the suitability of the

central organization which we possess for initiating measures of sanitary improvement, and for co-ordinating the activities of the various agencies employed to carry them out, is relevant to the matters of which I have been speaking. And I take this opportunity of informing you that it is my intention at an early date to appoint a small committee, consisting of Sanitary and Medical experts and of representatives of local self-governing bodies, to examine the organization and make recommendations with regard to it.

There is one other item on your agenda paper which is of such immense importance that I cannot conclude these few remarks without making some reference to it. I refer to item number 18 which deals with the extension of primary education. In this connection you will have received the illuminating and suggestive note which has recently been drawn up by Mr. Dunn. We all realize, I am sure, the importance of primary education and the need for its wider diffusion. But I am disposed to think that the extent of the progress which has been made in Bengal is not generally realized. The most recent statistics show that 1,200,000 boys, or approximately half the boys of primary school age, are already receiving some sort of primary education. The cost involved is approximately Rs. 40,00,000 a year, of which about one-half is derived from fees and the other from Revenue, Imperial, Provincial and Local. But the whole structure of primary education suffers from lack of system. Of the 34,000 primary schools

the greater number have sprung up spontaneously, like the wild flowers of the forest. What we have to do is to play the part of gardener, to take the forest in hand, and convert it into a well-ordered garden. The subject falls naturally into two categories—the urban and the rural. Mr. Dunn lays stress upon the fact that in the Municipalities, apart from Calcutta, there is even less trace of system than in the rural areas, and he urges the necessity of a system of primary school control being created. I hope that the Primary Education Act which became law last spring will prove of substantial assistance to us in this direction. The preliminary steps which are authorized by that measure have been taken, and we await with interest the replies of the different Municipalities to the references which have been addressed to them.

Turning to the districts, we find two methods of promoting primary education adopted by the District Boards. The more usual method is that of giving grants-in-aid to schools as they spring up—a method altogether lacking in system, in that it takes no account of the geographical distribution of the schools. The second method which had its origin in Eastern Bengal, is far more scientific, and consists in building and maintaining a definite number of schools distributed on a given plan throughout Panchayati Unions. Considerable progress has been made with this scheme, some 5,350 of the 7,580 Panchayati Unions being already in possession of satisfactory schools.

But only about one-quarter of the primary schools in rural areas have come into existence under this system, and the remaining three-quarters have sprung up on no organized plan at all. It seems quite clear, therefore, that one of the first things to be done is to introduce system where blind chance at present reigns. Hardly less important than the introduction of system into any scheme of expansion is the provision of trained teachers to staff the schools. This is a matter which has been occupying the attention of Government for some time past; and as you will see from Mr. Dunn's note, the scheme which we have submitted to the Secretary of State provides for an annual output of 3,200 *gurus* when it is in full operation. Even under this scheme it will be some years before the existing schools, apart from new schools which will come into existence, will be adequately staffed with trained teachers; and it is a matter for consideration whether in the circumstances of the Presidency the scheme can be expanded and speeded up.

There are one or two other matters of interest on the agenda paper; but I have already taken up sufficient of your time, and I pass them by without comment. I shall now vacate the Chair, so that you may proceed to your business without further delay. I trust that your deliberations will prove to be congenial and fruitful of results.

***His Excellency's Speech at a Conference on  
Technological Education in the Legislative  
Council Chamber, Calcutta, on 18th November  
1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful to you for responding so readily to my invitation to you to meet me this evening for the purpose of discussing—and, I hope, coming to some decision upon a matter to which I attach no little importance. The question of Technical Education in Bengal is one which has behind it a long, and I am sorry to say, a somewhat abortive history. The archives of the Education Department are choked with correspondence on the subject of a Technological Institute; the multitudinous recommendations of innumerable bodies and committees on the same subject constitute a forbidding volume of literature, but have failed to generate any action.

After studying this literature I have come to the conclusion that the main reason why nothing has been done is that the schemes contemplated have been on far too large and ambitious a scale. On paper a Technological Institute, undertaking the training of young men for a whole series of industries, is attractive: but in the circumstances of India it is extremely difficult to persuade such a scheme actually to materialize. This being so, the view which I take is that it is far better to do

something practical on a modest scale without delay, than to continue playing with visions of ambitions and resplendent polytechnics. To what then should we devote our immediate attention? I have little hesitation myself in suggesting that our first step should be to set up a Technical School in Calcutta which should work in co-operation with the engineering shops of the city with a view to turning out the class of man known as the foreman mechanic. Let me state briefly the reasons which have led me to this conclusion. My first reason is that I believe this type of person is required more than any other at the present stage of the industrial development of Bengal. In other words, I accept the view put forward by Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. de V. Atkinson and Mr. T. S. Dawson in 1912, that, while there is no great opening at present for high grade Mechanical or Electrical Engineers, whose education is mostly of a theoretical character, there is a very large opening for the employment of men in mechanical and electrical engineering, who, after training in a properly equipped institute, are willing to gain their practical experience by apprenticeship, work with their hands and observe factory rules and hours. My second main reason is that other ends, to which a Technological Institute might devote its energies, are already being met to some extent by existing institutions. The higher branches of engineering are being taught at the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur. Instruction in weaving is given by the Weaving Institute at Serampore.



Training in the technique of commerce is imparted at the Calcutta Commercial Institute.

The first question, then, which I would submit to you for your consideration and advice is this—Do you agree that, postponing for the moment a consideration of more ambitious projects, immediate steps should be taken to set up in Calcutta a Technical School to turn out foremen mechanics in conjunction with the local engineering shops and (in conjunction with Sibpur) a few Engineers; such school dealing with apprentices in mechanical and electrical engineering (including motor manufacture and repair) and including a general instruction class?

I have suggested that we should limit ourselves at the start to establishing a Technical School such as I have just described. And I have given my main reasons for making this suggestion, foremost among which is the apprehension borne of experience that a decision to embark upon a more ambitious project will prove fruitful of further delay. But I am by no means indifferent to the advantages of concentrating instruction in different branches of industry at one centre; and I see no reason why, when once we have succeeded in establishing a Technical School, we should not gradually expand it into a Technological Institute by incorporating existing institutions such as those which I have already mentioned and, if necessary, adding to them.

The second question, then, which I would put to you is this—Do you agree that in selecting

a site, in designing the buildings, and in constituting the management for the Technical School, allowance should be made for its expansion at no very distant date into a Technological Institute?

Assuming that your decisions on these points are in the affirmative, the next question to be considered is this:—Should the institution be a Government or a private concern? It has hitherto generally been assumed in the literature dealing with this question, that the proposed Technological Institute would be a Government institution. I am by no means convinced that this would be in the best interests of the institution. I have been impressed by the opinion which has been expressed by the Technical Education Sub-Committee of the Governing Body of the Sibpur College with regard to the Calcutta Technical Evening School. The Sub-Committee point out that the management of the school has been throughout in the hands of representatives of the employers of the apprentices, and the assistance given by Government has been in the form of grants. And they state that in their belief the success, which has attended the school in spite of great handicaps and the primary difficulty of want of suitable accommodation, is due to the school being the outcome of private and not State enterprise. My third question is then,—Do you agree that the proposed school should be the property of Trustees and be managed by a Governing Body as a non-Government institution working under the supervision of the Education and Industries Departments; that the

buildings should be constructed by the Governing Body in accordance with plans and estimates approved by Government and under the supervision of the Public Works Department; and that the cost of construction should be met by a grant from public funds supplemented by a contribution from the firms who will benefit by the scheme; that the cost of equipment should be similarly met; that the cost of conducting the school should be defrayed from an annual contribution from Government to be fixed for a definite period of years and supplemented by contributions from the firms? If so, what proportion of the capital and recurring charges will the firms be prepared to put up?

When replies are given to these three questions, main principles will have been settled, and it will then be possible to work out a definite scheme to give effect to them. Most of you have given a good deal of thought to the question of Technical Education, and it is possible that you may be prepared to discuss and come to decisions on the three questions of principles, which I have put to you, before you separate this evening. But whether that be so or not, I am going to suggest that before separating you appoint a small Committee to consider and report to you upon these principles, if no decision is come to this evening; or to draw up a scheme based upon them for submission to you in the event of their being accepted. You would, no doubt, desire that the Committee should have at its disposal all the

information which Government possess in connection with the whole question of Technical Education, and I would suggest, therefore, that among others Mr. Heaton, Mr. Everett and Mr. Meek should be members of your Committee. They are familiar with the huge volume of literature, which has accumulated round the question, and will, I am sure, be willing to place their knowledge at your disposal.

This being so, it is not necessary for me to do more than mention the more important of the details which will have to be considered when it comes to drawing up a definite scheme. First, there is the question of site. This question has been given a good deal of thought by Government, and we should be prepared to suggest sites for the consideration of the Committee. Next there is the question of staff; and this in its turn must depend upon what decision is arrived at upon the vexed question of day classes or night classes. Upon this latter point we have the opinions of experts which we shall gladly lay before the Committee; and we have ample material to place before them to assist them in coming to a decision with regard to establishment.

There is one more question, which is of considerable importance, namely, that of the authority which should be responsible for Technical Education in Calcutta. And in this connection it is important that I should place you in possession of the policy which has recently been adopted by

Government in the case of Technical Education outside Calcutta. We have accepted the recommendations of the Committee, which sat recently under the Presidentship of Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee. The report of that Committee will be placed before you. Its most important recommendation from the point of view of the matter, which is under the consideration of this Conference, is that constituting a central authority with power and responsibility in connection with apprenticeship training generally. The body proposed for this purpose, to be known as the "Board of Control for Apprenticeship Training," will consist of twelve members, including three Railway representatives and three representatives of Engineering firms in and around Calcutta. Its duties will be—

- (1) the conduct of the Apprentices' Admission Examination ;
- (2) the general control over the Technical Education of apprentices in the schools or technical institutes ;
- (3) the co-ordination of the same with the practical training ;
- (4) the regulation of courses of study ;
- (5) the conduct of the admission examination to the Mechanical Engineering classes of the Sibpur College ;
- (6) the conduct of the Final Examination for those apprentices who do not proceed to Sibpur, and

- (7) the grant of diplomas for these apprentices and for those who complete the Final Course at Sibpur

The question, then, which arises is, would this Board be a suitable authority to control technical training in Calcutta as well as outside? The Domiciled Enquiry General Committee, with the scheme for the creation of the Board of Control of Apprenticeship Training before them, advocated the creation of a separate Board for Calcutta; and it may be that you will come to the conclusion that the problems of Technical Education in Calcutta are so important and of such a character as to require a Board for their exclusive control. I do not wish in any way to prejudge the matter beyond saying that this view would undoubtedly acquire additional force if the Technical School now proposed is likely to expand into a Technological Institute.

Now I think that I have covered the ground sufficiently to enable the Conference to get to work. The views provisionally accepted by Government, so far as main principles are concerned, are those put forward in the three questions which I have submitted to you. But I feel that the question of Technical Education is essentially one on which the advice of those actually engaged in industry and commerce is of paramount authority; and in the event of your differing from us on these points, we shall be ready to give respectful consideration to any representations which you may make.

*Address presented by the English Bazar Municipality (Malda), on 22nd November 1919.*

WE, the Commissioners of the Municipal Corporation of this town of English Bazar, in the district of Malda, crave leave to approach Your Excellency with this our humble address, offering a respectful and cordial welcome on this happy occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this town. We also take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt loyalty and sincere devotion to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor George V and to express our rejoicing at the complete victory which the Great War has brought about in favour of Great Britain and her Allies in vindication of the triumph of the ideals for which the Allied powers were compelled to unsheathe their swords.

2. We solicit Your Excellency's indulgence for repeating a prayer which we made before the Government on several previous occasions, viz., the grant to this Corporation of a moiety of the proceeds of the ferries at Jhawghatta, Fulbari, Kothabari (formerly known as Kaliganj) and the subsidiary ferry of station ghât which are all situated within the municipal limits. All these ferries (except Fulbari and Kothabari) were made over to the District Board in 1904, before which we used to get a moiety of the income of the

principal ferry at Jhawghatta. After this transfer, Government was pleased to grant a consolidated amount of Rs. 650 instead of a moiety. The increase of traffic in these ferries, consequent on the opening of the Katihar-Godagari Railway in 1909, has resulted in a substantial enhancement of the income, imposing at the same time a heavier responsibility and expenditure on us, as the approaches to these ferries have to be maintained and lighted by this Municipality. We may also be permitted to state that in 1899-1900 the Divisional Commissioner proposed to recommend the grant to us of the whole of the sale-proceeds of all these ferries, provided we undertook any work connected with sanitation, conservancy or the like—a drainage scheme being specially suggested. This last suggestion has since been carried out, for which we had to spend about Rs. 9,700 in addition to the Government grant of Rs. 12,500, and the loan of Rs. 2,500 which has been paid off. We are incurring every year a heavier expenditure for their maintenance, and we have a desire to undertake a scheme for waterworks and for completing the drainage scheme. In these circumstances, we humbly beg that Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to accord kind and favourable consideration to our prayer.

3. Emboldened by the keen interest and broad-minded sympathy which Your Excellency has shown in matters connected with sanitation of the Presidency, we beg most respectfully to bring



the incomplete state of our drainage to Your Excellency's kind notice. We have got a drainage scheme, but for shortness of funds we have not been able to complete it, and we have been compelled to cut short the masonry portion of the drains in the midst of inhabited localities. The remaining portions have become a nuisance and afford a breeding ground for the mosquitoes to the great inconvenience of the people living close by. It has become urgently necessary in these days of Malaria and Influenza to extend the masonry out of the populated area to the end of the drains. To do this Rs. 18,000 will be necessary, but we are unable to provide this amount out of our current revenue. As a patron and supporter of Local Self-Government, we pray that Your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased to make a suitable donation to enable us to complete the drainage scheme.

4. We further beg leave to bring to Your Excellency's kind notice that we quite appreciate and have full sympathy with the Malda people's prayer to have the district made self-contained as regards its administration of civil and criminal justice. This prayer for the establishment of a Judge's Court in this town fully deserves to be given effect to, as it will remove a long-felt want of the people, and at the same time enhance the importance and prosperity and growth of the town. We, therefore, humbly and earnestly pray that Your Excellency would be kind enough to

sanction a Judgeship for Malda or at least the post of a Subordinate Judge, vested with the powers of an Appellate Court and Assistant Sessions Judge.

5. In conclusion, we heartily pray to the Almighty that He may vouchsafe to Your Excellency and Your Excellency's family long life, sound health and every happiness.

*Address presented by the District Board, Malda,  
on 22nd November 1919.*

WE, the members of the Malda District Board, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this address and to accord a hearty and respectful welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this district. We also take this opportunity of tendering our loyal and sincere devotion to the Person and Throne of His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor and of expressing our devout gratitude that success has attended his arms and those of his Allies in the late war which he so nobly undertook in defence of the right and of the sanctity of treaties.

2. Your Excellency's wide sympathies and liberal views have already won the gratitude, esteem and affection of all sections of the community, and we are thereby emboldened to make known some of the desires of the people of this district in the hope that they will meet with Your Excellency's kind consideration.

3. The district is one which can lay claim to a historic past of considerable antiquity and no little material prosperity and the fact that it possesses the ruins of two capital cities invests it with an interest second to none in Bengal. The vicissitudes of fortune have, indeed, shorn it of

much of its former magnificence, but we may not unreasonably expect in the future an increase of prosperity based on a revival of those industries for which it formerly was renowned, and on a scientific development of agriculture. In order, however, to reap the full benefits of such an improvement, it is essential that the district should be provided with an ample supply of good roads, connecting all parts of it with the recently constructed railway. It must be confessed that much is lacking in this respect, yet with the present resources of the Board it is impossible to embark on any comprehensive scheme; indeed, with the recent rise in the price of all materials, the Board can do nothing beyond maintaining those already in existence. In this connection we venture to suggest that, as the ruins of Gaur and Pandua are of more than local interest, the Board might be relieved of the maintenance of the metalled roads leading thereto which entails a considerable drain on its slender resources and prevents the undertaking of works more economically useful to the district.

4. Another respect in which this district leaves much to be desired is the provision of medical assistance. It is unfortunately a fact that Malaria has increased largely in recent years, and it is the desire of the Board to provide a dispensary, at least at the headquarters of each police-station. But for the same reason of

inadequate funds it has to be content with something far short of this.

5. We hope that when the cess is revalued after the district settlement operations, there will be a substantial increase, but that will not be realized for several years, and, in the meantime, we venture to request Your Excellency to increase the augmentation grant to enable us to do something towards improvement of the present very inadequate provision in both these important departments.

6. In conclusion, we beg to offer Your Excellency our best wishes for a prosperous term of rule in Bengal and for long life and prosperity.

*Address presented by the Malda Association,  
on 22nd November 1919.*

WE, the members of the Malda Association, representing the people of Malda of all castes and creeds, Hindus and Muhammadans, most respectfully crave leave to approach Your Excellency with this our humble and loyal address, and offer Your Excellency our hearty and most respectful welcome on this most auspicious and memorable occasion of Your Excellency's first visit as the exalted ruler of the Presidency to the historic district of Malda which bears on its bosom the ruins of Gaur and Pandua, the ancient capitals of Bengal under the Hindu and Muhammadan rulers. We take the opportunity of also expressing our heartfelt loyalty and deep devotion to the Throne and Person of His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor George V, Lord of Delhi, the Lord of the World (*Dillisoaroba Jagadisoaroba*) and his noble consort, our beloved Queen-Empress. We further rejoice at the successful termination of the titanic struggles of the suffering humanity in the last world-war, and congratulate His Majesty for bringing about the much-longed for peace.

2. Your Excellency's kind sympathy and solicitous care for the welfare of the people entrusted to Your Excellency emboldens us now

that Your Excellency is in our midst to lay before Your Excellency some of our pressing wants and keenly-felt grievances, hoping they will receive Your Excellency's kind and sympathetic consideration.

3. It is high time that the district of Malda, considering its growing importance under Your Excellency's Government, should now be made a self-contained district as regards its administration of civil and criminal justice. This district contains three Municipal towns and in point of revenue is superior to many sister districts in the Presidency. But unfortunately for the people it is no better than a subdivision as regards the administration of civil and criminal justice, and they have to suffer great hardship and much inconvenience for want of a District and Sessions Judge's Court at Malda. The number of civil and criminal cases in the district of Malda, both original and appellate, furnish sufficient work for the Court of a District and Sessions Judge here, and if such a Court be established, it will not only save the people from the enormous trouble and prohibitive expenses for going to an out-of-the-way place like Rajshahi for the purpose of prosecuting and defending their cases, but will also do away with the expenditure which the Government has to bear at present for meeting the travelling and other incidental expenses of the Sessions Judge and his staff. We, therefore, most earnestly pray that Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to sanction a separate Judgeship for Malda,

thereby conferring a great boon on the people of the district. We are, however, thankful to Your Excellency for the announcement recently made by Your Excellency's Government that steps were being taken to place a Sub-Judge here as an experimental measure. We, therefore, most earnestly hope that Your Excellency would kindly see that the experiment may be given effect to without any further delay, and thereby relieve to some extent the long-felt grievance of the people.

4. We also beg Your Excellency's leave to represent that the site of the railway station on the other side of the river Malananda greatly stands in the way of traffic and commerce of the town of Malda and much inconveniences the people of the district who have occasion constantly to come to the headquarters of the district on various sorts of business. We, therefore, most respectfully pray that Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to redress this grievance by sanctioning the construction of a bridge over the river Mahananda.

5. We further beg most humbly to represent before Your Excellency two crying wants from which the inhabitants of the town of Nawabganj have been suffering. This town has a municipality and is one of the most important trade centres in the district, and, as such, it highly deserves to be connected with the Katihar-Godagari Railway by the construction of a branch line either from Nachole Station or from Godagari. This town



should also have a telegraphic communication with the headquarters of the district. We earnestly solicit that our prayer for the redress of these grievances will meet with kind consideration of Your Excellency's benign Government.

6. Lastly, we beg most respectfully to submit, for Your Excellency's kind consideration, the following urgent needs of the people which call for early redress and the removal of which will be conducive in a great measure to the satisfaction and happiness of the people at large:—

(a) Considering the prevalence of the Malarial Fever and other epidemic diseases in the Province, it is a matter of utmost importance that a medical school should be established at a suitable place in the Rajshahi Division and that medical aid in an adequate measure should be dealt out to the people in the mufassal. With this object the District Board may be helped with some special grant for the purpose by the Government to enable the District Board to establish two or more new charitable dispensaries at suitable centres in the mufassal for the benefit of the poor.

(b) The posts of the District Deputy Inspector of Schools and Special Sub-Registrar at Sadar may alternately be filled with Hindu and Mahammadan officers.

- (c) The establishment of three more Sub-Registry offices at Shibganj and Gajole and Bamongola is urgently required for the convenience of the people of the locality concerned.
- (d) Prompt and suitable measures on the part of Your Excellency's benignant Government to regulate the prices of cloth, rice and other foodstuffs are most urgently necessary for the purpose of alleviating the intense sufferings of the people owing to the abnormal rise in the prices of those necessities of life.

In conclusion, we most devoutly wish and earnestly pray to the Almighty for a long, happy and prosperous life of Your Excellency and for Your Excellency's gracious and glorious rule as the Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

*Address presented by the Malda Muhammadan Association, on 22nd November 1919.*

It is with feelings of sincere gratitude and unbounded joy that we, the members of the Malda Muhammadan Association, on our own behalf, and as representing the Muhammadans of Malda, have assembled here to-day to accord Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this district.

2. We rejoice at the happy termination of the world-wide war and embrace this fitting opportunity of once more expressing our deep sense of loyalty and sincere devotion to the august Person and exalted Throne of His Most Gracious Majesty our King-Empëror, and the feeling of pride and gratification with which we cherish the idea that our Sovereign rules over a larger number of Mussalmans than does any other Monarch on the face of the earth and that the All Wise Providence in His infinite mercy has entrusted to Your Excellency's care over 20 millions of Mussalmans, a number far greater than in any other province in India.

3. We take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for prosecuting, at our instance, and at considerable Government expense, the suit relating

to the great Wakf Estate of Bais Hazari, now pending in the District Judge's Court at Rajshahi.

4. We now take the liberty most respectfully to lay before Your Excellency some of our wants and grievances, and most earnestly hope that they will receive Your Excellency's kind and sympathetic consideration.

5. Your Excellency, the abnormally high prices of cloths and foodstuffs which continue, in spite of the cessation of the war, has spread consternation in the minds of the public whose patience has been taxed to the utmost. We, therefore, take the liberty to approach Your Excellency to save the situation by stopping the exportation of rice and other foodstuffs from this district, by fixing their prices, by importing the long-expected standardized cloths for which statistics were called for and supplied some time ago, or by such other means as to Your Excellency may seem proper and expedient under the circumstances.

6. We have in this town established a Junior Middle Madrassa on the lines approved by Government. This institution fully satisfies the requirements of the Muhammadans inasmuch as Arabic and Urdu, the sacred languages of the Muhammadans, are taught there from the very beginning, so as to obviate the in-ordinate difficulties experienced by the Muhammadan students in beginning, in the higher classes of an high English school, either of those languages which for various

reasons Muhammadan students are bound to learn, but which from their nature and as also being written in a different script, have no affinity to Bengalee through whose medium education is mainly imparted in the lower classes. The Madrassa which is partly maintained by a Government grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 a month is in financial difficulties. We, therefore, most earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to increase the present grant to the Madrassa to Rs. 100 per mensem.

7. The want of a medical school in the Rajshahi Division is keenly felt by the public. Hundreds of students are refused admission into the Campbell and other medical schools of the Province for want of accommodation, while there is a great paucity of passed doctors when diseases of old and new types are steadily on the increase in all the districts of the Province. We, therefore, avail ourselves of this unique occasion to solicit Your Excellency's ordering suitable measures to be taken for the establishment, at a convenient place in this Division, of at least one medical school in which medical students residing in this Division may have priority in the matter of admission.

8. Your Excellency, there is a valuable Persian Manuscript called the *Khurshid Jahan Namah* (History of the World) which is lying in the Imperial Library (Bohar Section) at Calcutta. Its author, the late celebrated Munshi Syed Elahi Bakhsh, a resident of this town, has justly been

placed in the rank of eminent antiquarians and researchers. As the book contains an authentic history of Malda, and particularly of Gāut and Pandua, it is highly desirable to have it printed, so to be available to the public. We, therefore, again crave leave to approach Your Excellency with this our last prayer for an order to have at least the Malda portion of the manuscript printed at Government expense.

9. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Providence may grant Your Excellency a long lease of happy life and uninterrupted prosperity.

***His Excellency's Reply to the 'Addresses presented,  
at Malda, on 22nd November 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have to thank you for addresses of welcome on this the occasion of my first visit to the historic district of Malda, from deputations representing the Municipal and District Boards, the Malda Association and the Muhammadan community; and I take this opportunity of expressing, on behalf of His Majesty the King-Emperor, my sincere appreciation of the deep sentiments of loyalty to the Throne, which characterize all your addresses, as well as of the words of joyful congratulation at the successful termination of the great world-war, which likewise find a prominent place in them.

2. You have very naturally taken advantage of my presence amongst you to bring to my notice a number of matters affecting the well-being of the district. These may be grouped under the following heads:—"Sanitation," "Medical," "Education," "Administration" and "Communications." You have also touched upon the economic situation, and have dealt with one or two miscellaneous matters including the printing of the Persian manuscript "*Khurshid Jahan*," and the suit regarding the Bais Hazari Wakf Estate. So far as the latter is concerned, the suit is pending in the District Judge's Court, and I leave it there without

comment, beyond saying that I take note of the satisfaction which the members of the Muhammadan Association express at the action which Government have taken in this matter.

3. I have made enquiries about the Persian manuscript of which you speak, namely, the "*Khurshid Jahan Namah*." It is a very comprehensive work, covering some eleven hundred pages, and dealing with the history and the geography of the world from the creation down to the year 1864 A.D. It deals very briefly with Malda and Gaur, about eleven pages being devoted to each and makes nothing more than a passing reference to Pandua. Under these circumstances the Local Government would scarcely be justified in undertaking its publication. But certain public funds are placed annually at the disposal of the Asiatic Society to aid them in the publication of Persian and Arabic works of historical interest, and we are inviting the Society to consider the claims of the manuscript in question.

"4. Now let me turn to matters of more general interest. Under the head of "Medical," you lay stress upon the necessity of adding to the number of dispensaries, and you urge the establishment in the Rajshahi Division of a medical school. I fully appreciate the importance of increasing the output of properly-trained medical men, and I think I may lay claim to having already backed my opinion by deeds as well as by words. Besides largely increasing the accommodation at the Campbell and Dacca



Medical Schools, we have arranged to establish a new medical school at Burdwan. The project for buildings required for the school and the hostel to be attached to it, has already been sanctioned. No doubt there is need for more such schools; but, as I have pointed out before, a medical school can only be established in proximity to a suitable hospital for the clinical instruction of the students. The largest hospitals in the Rajshahi Division at present are the Jalpaiguri and Rangpur Sadar Hospitals, each of which contains 58 beds. This compares unfavourably with hospitals like Burdwan which contains 127 beds; and I am afraid, even if we had the money, which we have not, Government could not under these circumstances undertake to establish a medical school in this neighbourhood at the present time.

5. . Now turning to the question of the provision of more dispensaries. You here raise the whole question of District Board finance. District Boards have three main sources of revenue—the Road Cess, the augmentation grant and the Public Works Cess. Of these the Road Cess cannot be expended on Sanitation and Dispensaries; but the augmentation grant and the Public Works Cess can; and, indeed, as recently as September 1917, Government urged District Boards to aim at establishing a net work of dispensaries with the aid of the additional resources which they derived from the surrender of the Public Works Cess. I find from the recent budgets of the District Board that in

addition to the Road Cess, the whole of the augmentation grant, and further sums which must presumably have been taken from the Public Works Cess, have been spent on communications.

6. No doubt communications are important, but it is for the Board to decide whether they should not spend rather more upon dispensaries and rather less upon roads. In any case I see that at the end of last year the Board had a closing balance of Rs. 21,000 which is Rs. 14,000 above the minimum closing balance prescribed by the Commissioner, a fact which suggests that it would have been possible, even without curtailing the expenditure on roads, to spend more upon dispensaries. But whether that is so or not, it is clear to me that additional resources are rapidly becoming necessary, if we are to deal adequately with the vitally important question of public health. Where are these resources to come from? The Local Government is no more able to increase its resources than you are—except by new taxation. The public health organization of the future will probably centre on the rural dispensary; and if District Boards are unable to provide the necessary number of dispensaries with their present resources, I can see no other way in which we can achieve the end which we all have in view than by increasing those resources by means, for example, of a small public health cess. That is a suggestion, at any rate, which we shall all do well to think carefully over.

7. I sympathize with the Municipality in their desire to round off their drainage system, and if they will submit a scheme with an estimate of cost, I will do what I can to help them. They will, perhaps, be prepared to finance a loan with the additional income which they derive from the re-assessment which has recently been made, and, if so, we will assist them with a grant for the balance.

8. Under the head of "Education" the Muhammadan Association invite my attention to the financial difficulties in which they find themselves in connection with their Junior Middle Madrassa, and ask for an increase in the Government grant. Since they put forward their request, the grant has been raised by the Inspector of Schools from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 a month, and I trust that this may prove of substantial assistance to you.

9. Among administrative matters you refer to a question which has received a great deal of attention in recent times, that of the creation of a District and Sessions Judge's Court at Malda. This matter was very fully dealt with in the Legislative Council in March last, and I need only state briefly the decision which we have come to. So far as Sessions cases are concerned, these are taken at Malda under the existing arrangement by the Judge of Rajshahi. But we realize that it would be a convenience to the people to be provided with greater facilities in the matter of civil suits, and we have issued orders for the deputation of a Sub-Judge to sit at Malda for two consecutive months in the

year. He will, of course, have powers as an Appellate Court, and I presume that the District Judge will send him appellate cases from Malda to try when he is on deputation here.

10. Your request that the posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools and Special Sub-Registrar at Sadar should be filled alternatively by Hindu and Muhammadan officers, is one with regard to which I can make no binding promise. But the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector-General of Registration have been informed of the wish which you have expressed. The latter official is also making enquiries as to whether Gajole or Bamongola would be suitable for the location of a new registration office, in the event of the work of registration justifying the establishment of a new office.

11. Under the head of "Communications" you place before me a request which you submitted to Lord Carmichael in 1913; namely, that a bridge should be built across the Mahanadi. Lord Carmichael informed you that it was intended that the Bengal Local Self-Government Act should be extended to the district, in which case, he added, it would be possible for the District Board to construct the bridge and to recoup the cost by levying tolls. The Act has since then been extended to the district, and I recommend you to act upon Lord Carmichael's suggestion that the District Board should prepare a scheme and

see how far a loan could be financed by tolls. Next there is the question of a branch railway and a telegraph line to the Municipality of Nawabganj. Owing to the whole programme of railway construction in Northern Bengal having been held up by the war, I can add nothing to what my predecessor said on the first of these two matters. The prospects of a telegraph line, however, are more hopeful. The restrictions on the opening of new telegraph offices which were imposed during the war have now been removed, and as soon as the usual indemnity bond has been duly executed by the guarantors, the Telegraph Department will be requested to take the project in hand.

12. I feel some difficulty in dealing with the request of the Municipality for an increased share of the proceeds of certain ferries. As far as I understand the matter, these ferries were made over to the District Board many years ago, and it seems to be a matter, therefore, for negotiation between the Municipality and the District Board.

13. Nor, I am afraid, can I see my way to granting the request of the District Board for an increase of the augmentation grant, for the reason that this particular grant is fixed for all districts at 25 per cent. of the net Road Cess; and if I were to agree to it being increased in one case, I should have to do so in all cases, which is out of the question with our present Provincial Revenue.

14. For the same reason I cannot undertake to provincialize the roads mentioned in paragraph 3 of the District Board address. Within the last twelve months I have been obliged to refuse similar requests made by two other districts, and I have based my refusal on the ground that if I depart from the accepted principle that local roads are matters for the District Boards in one case, I should have to do so in all cases.

15. Finally, I come to the economic situation. The hardship caused by high prices to which you refer has occupied the constant attention of Government for many months past; and you will probably have seen the many speeches and communiqués, which have been made at frequent intervals, setting forth the causes of the present state of affairs, and explaining the action taken by Government from time to time to deal with it. I need only remind you briefly, therefore, of the principle upon which we have proceeded. We have satisfied ourselves that the most practical way of bringing down prices is to increase the visible supply of the commodity concerned. Thus in the case of rice our policy has been to add to the supply by getting exports from Bengal restricted and by importing large quantities of rice from Burma. I understand that arrangements made by the Municipality and the Co-operative Bank have been in force for the sale of this rice at controlled prices. I think I may claim that this policy has met with a considerable measure of success. Since we have been able to

place the imported rice on the market in large quantities, there has been an appreciable fall in the price. Common rice which was selling in Malda at Rs. 10 a maund during the greater part of September, has fallen to Rs. 8 a maund at the present time. I hope and believe that the fall will continue. And, indeed, so successful have we been recently in maintaining a full supply that we have received requests from those whom we have been supplying that we should now cease doing so.' So far as cloth is concerned, Government took the precaution a long time ago of acquiring a reserve on their own account, with a view to placing it upon the market in the event of any sudden emergency. We are keeping close watch on the market; and I think I am right in saying that prices are at present lower than they have been at any time during the 'present year. Of course we would like to see a continuous fall in price; but here again we have to deal with worldwide causes which are consequently largely beyond our control.

16. Now I have done my best to reply to all the matters which you have brought to my notice. It remains only for me to express my pleasure at being able to visit this interesting and historic neighbourhood, and to thank you once more for the warmth of your welcome.

*Joint Address presented by the Dinajpur District Board and the Dinajpur Municipality, on 24th, November 1919.*

WE, the members of the Dinajpur District Board and the Commissioners of the Dinajpur Municipality, beg leave most humbly on behalf of ourselves and the people of the district of Dinajpur, to offer our most sincere and respectful welcome to Your Excellency, on this happy occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient and historic town. We rejoice at the happy and glorious termination of the war and beg to take this opportunity of expressing our most sincere and heartfelt loyalty, and deep attachment to the Person and Throne of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

2. The people of Dinajpur have suffered greatly along with the people of other parts of the country on account of an unprecedented rise in the prices of foodstuffs and cloths and other commodities, and we earnestly hope that the normal condition of things will gradually return with the establishment of peace in the Empire.

3. We regret to mention that the health of the public of Dinajpur has been unusually bad this year, both in the town as well as in the interior of the district. Small-pox and Cholera have caused many deaths, and amongst others that of Babu Lalit Chandra Sen, the late Chairman of the



Municipality. His death was a great loss to the community. The District Board and the Municipality took all precautionary measures for checking the spread of these diseases.

4. The District of Dinajpur is notorious for Malarial Fever. Sanitary measures are taken by the District Board and the Municipality so far as possible, but any big project of sanitary improvement could not up to now be taken up on account of want of funds. A scheme of drainage was prepared by the Sanitary Engineer for the town of Dinajpur in 1916, involving an expenditure of Rs. 2,75,000, but the scheme could not be carried out as funds were not available. We venture to submit that it will not be possible to take up any substantial scheme for sanitary improvement without the aid of Government.

5. The District Board of Dinajpur was constituted in 1887 and its members are all nominated by Government. We venture to think that if the elective system were introduced, the public at large might be made to take more interest in the affairs of the Board. The District Board has made many improvements in roads and bridges within the last few years, but from the beginning of next year the expenditure is likely to increase on account of the appointment of a Health Officer and the opening of new dispensaries in the district during the current year and next year. The allotment under public works will, therefore, have to be curtailed.

6. The difficulty of access to the subdivisional headquarters at Thakurgaon and Balurghat has always been very keenly felt. The District Board is doing its best to improve the communications, but much remains yet to be done. We take this opportunity of bringing to Your Excellency's notice that there is a proposal for the construction of a railway line through the interior of the district, connecting several important places. A branch line, linking up the various important trade centres of the district, would be of the greatest value, and we beg most earnestly to invite Your Excellency's kind attention to this matter, so that the project may be expedited. We venture also to suggest that if the maintenance of one central road from the north of the district to the south were taken up by the Government and placed on the Provincial list, the District Board would be able to improve other roads in the district which require immediate attention.

7. The administration of the Dinajpur Municipality has been carried on by a purely non-official agency since 1891, and we have much pleasure in submitting that the administration has always been very favourably noticed by the district authorities and by the Government. The north-west portion of the town is inundated almost every year by the river, and to combat this, the construction of a protective embankment is considered necessary. But with the funds available, it has not been possible to take up the work. The Sadar Hospital is maintained mainly by the

District Board and the Municipality, and by public subscriptions. The demands of the hospital are, however, gradually increasing, and urgent improvements are often postponed for want of funds. The construction of a new Ward for infectious diseases has become a matter of necessity, as the present room is too small, and quite unfit for use. We venture to appeal to Your Excellency's Government for such assistance in these matters as Your Excellency may consider proper.

8. We take this opportunity of mentioning that the people of this district are evincing an increasing desire for higher education. The foundation-stone of the new High School was laid by His Excellency Lord Carmichael during his visit to this town, and with the aid of the Government and the liberal donations of the Maharaja Bahadur of Dinajpur a commodious building is under construction for the school. We hope the building will be completed shortly and will relieve a public want.

9. In conclusion, we pray most fervently that Almighty God may grant Your Excellency sound health and a happy and prosperous career.

*Address presented by the Dinajpur Muhammadan Association, on 24th November 1919.*

WE, the members of the Muhammadan Association, Dinajpur, on our own behalf, and on behalf of the Muhammadan inhabitants of the district of Dinajpur, beg to offer to Your Excellency our most sincere and respectful welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's august visit to this small but ancient and historic town. We express our rejoicing at the happy and glorious termination of the war, and express our most sincere and loyal devotion and deep attachment to the Person and Throne of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

2. We regret to mention that the people of Dinajpur district, both in the town and in the interior, suffered very much from Small-pox, Cholera and Influenza during the present year.

3. We also beg to mention that the people of Dinajpur suffered greatly on account of the unprecedented high rise in the prices of all the articles of food and clothing, and we earnestly hope that normal condition will return soon with the successful termination of the War, and that Your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased to alleviate the sufferings.

4. We further beg to submit that the Muhammadan inhabitants of Dinajpur district is about 66 per cent. of the total population and that

they are very backward in all respects, especially in point of education; we take this opportunity of submitting our most humble respectful prayer for permission to open a High School attached to the Muhammadan Hostel, Dinajpur. It is needless to mention that the existing Zilla School, the new High English School, the Town High English School, which are not residential schools, cannot afford adequate accommodation to the students seeking admission in these schools, and the necessity for residential and day schools have been keenly felt by the people of this district. We beg most respectfully to propose to make the existing Muhammadan Hostel two-storied for opening a High English School, and most humbly and earnestly pray that Your Excellency's benign Government will stretch out a helping hand to our aspirations by granting us permission to add a second storey to the existing building of the Muhammadan Hostel and to grant two-thirds of the total towards the expenses for the erection of the aforesaid school-house. We think that the expenses will not exceed Rs. 25,000. It is hoped that this school will be a self-supporting one, as the Muhammadans are now taking to education in great numbers, and it will be a residential school as well.

5. We further beg to state that the majority of the Muhammadan inhabitants of this district are *jotedars* (holders of rights of occupancy), and that they feel most keenly the Law of Transfer with regard to occupancy holdings, as it stands, at

present, and that many families are being ruined on account of ejectment by the zamindars for sale of their occupancy holdings in their time of need and on account of the check put to the free sale of occupancy holdings, and the Association pray most respectfully that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to remedy this evil as early as possible.

6. We regret very much the sad mistake committed by the Turkish Empire in joining the Enemies of the British Empire during the war. The Muhammadans of this district beg to state that the Sultan of Turkey is looked upon with veneration by all the Muhammadans of the world, as being the Khalifa of Islam, and we pray that the Turkish Empire may be dealt with in a manner which will not be calculated to wound the feelings of the Muhammadan subjects of His Imperial Majesty.

7. We beg to state that not a single Muhammadan has been taken in the Provincial Executive Service for considerable number of years and that there has been no appointment in the Subordinate Executive Service, and we pray that considering the strength of the Muhammadan people of the district, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to take in more Muhammadans in the aforementioned services and that Your Excellency will place Muhammadan Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Collectors in the headquarters and subdivisions of this district.

8. We regret to say that the mode of communications, both by railways and roads, is in a very deplorable condition, and we pray that more branch lines be opened in the interior of the district; e.g., to Thakurgaon to the north, and that the existing roads between headquarters and the subdivisions be made *pukka* as soon as possible.

9. In conclusion, we pray for Your Excellency's long life, health and prosperity.

*Address presented by the Dinajpur Landholders' Association, on 24th November 1919.*

WE, the undersigned members of the Dinajpur Landholders' Association, for ourselves and on behalf of, and as representing, the zamindars of Dinajpur, beg leave to approach Your Excellency to offer you a most respectful and cordial welcome on the occasion of Your



*Address presented by the Dinajpur Merchants' Association, on 24th November 1919.*

WE, the undersigned, on behalf of, and representing, the Merchants of Dinajpur, beg respectfully to offer a most hearty welcome to Your Excellency on this memorable occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our historic town.

2. The Merchants' Association has been in existence for about 150 years, though it was originally known as "The Panchayati". Almost all the merchants and traders of this district are its members. On behalf of our Association, we beg to state that our town is one of the most important business centres in Bengal. Proper means of communication between the headquarters and the interior of this district are a crying necessity, and the want of railway connection with the subdivisions of this district has long been keenly felt. We further beg leave to state that we have to suffer loss on account of the insufficient accommodation of the goods-shed at the Dinajpur Railway Station and also for an inadequate supply of goods waggons during the business season.

3. In this Municipality, Government appoints seven Commissioners, and our Association begs to suggest that in the appointment of Municipal Commissioners the Government may be pleased to consider the claims of the merchants of this town and

that at least two Commissioners may be appointed from amongst the members of this Association.

4. In conclusion, we beg to assure Your Excellency of our loyalty to the Throne and Person of our beloved Sovereign, and of our readiness to offer our humble co-operation and services whenever they may be needed.

With fervent prayer for Your Excellency's health, long life and prosperity we beg leave to subscribe ourselves.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented  
at Dinajpur, on 24th November 1919..***

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me much pleasure to have received addresses of welcome on the occasion of this my first visit to Dinajpur from deputations representing the Municipal and District Boards and the Muhammadan, the Landholding and the Mercantile communities. And I hasten to express my deep appreciation of the sentiments of warm attachment to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King-Emperor, which you have voiced, as well as of your congratulations upon the triumphant emergence of the British Empire from the long and fiery ordeal of the great war.

2. It is with deep concern that I have learned of the ravages recently caused in this part of the Presidency by Cholera and by Small-pox, and I venture to express my sincere regret at the loss which the town has sustained in the death of the late Chairman of the Municipality, Babu Lalit Chandra Sen. I am sure that the health of the town would benefit by the drainage scheme prepared by the Sanitary Engineer in 1916, and I should like to think that, with the assistance of Government, the Municipality could devise a practicable plan for carrying it out. I am afraid there is no possibility of Government finding the whole of the money required; but the Municipality might,

perhaps, raise part of the capital cost by loan. It has been suggested to me that the financial position of the Municipality might be improved if the basis of assessment were changed and the Municipal rate levied on holdings instead of on persons as at present. If the Municipal Commissioners by this or other means found themselves in a position to bear some part of the cost by loan, I think I could promise them that Government would be ready to second their efforts by a substantial grant.

3. We should also be willing to assist with the much-needed improvements in the Sadar Hospital; and I would suggest that the Municipal Commissioners should submit a formal proposal to Government to this end.

4. I learn with satisfaction of the approaching completion of the High School of which Lord Carmichael laid the foundation-stone some time ago. I also view with sympathy the increasing interest which is being taken by the Muhammadan community in higher education. But before I could make any definite promise of financial assistance for the proposal to which allusion is made in the address of the Muhammadan Association, I should have to be supplied with a much more detailed scheme. Perhaps you might discuss the matter with the Inspector of Schools, with a view to drawing up a definite project.

5. I note what you say with regard to the introduction of the elective system for the District Board. As a preliminary step, it will be necessary

to create a Local Board for the Sadar Subdivision, and we have addressed the Commissioner of the Division upon this matter. We are also prepared to introduce the elective system in the case of the Local Boards when the present members vacate office, that is to say, in June next in the case of the Thakurgaon Local Board and in September in the case of the Balurghat Board.

6. The Merchants' Association asks that at least two of the Municipal Commissioners should be appointed from among their members. Only seven out of the twenty-one Commissioners are appointed, and I do not think that we should be justified in laying down a hard-and-fast rule that two of these seven must necessarily be members of the Association. However I understand that a recent vacancy has been filled or is about to be filled by the appointment of one of your members, so that for the present your wishes will have been met.

7. So far as the appointment of Muhammadans to the services is concerned, we do already make appointments on communal grounds. But we must give weight to a man's qualifications as well, and we could not bind ourselves to appoint Muhammadans from particular districts irrespective of their relative qualifications. In the matter of postings, you have a Muhammadan Deputy Collector at Sadar and another at Balurghat.

8. You refer to the need of railways. I understand that the Railway Board have approved projects for lines from Santahar to Dinajpur, and

from Eklakhi to Raiganj, and that these lines will be financed by Government. It is not possible for me to say when the construction will be undertaken, especially as owing to the urgent requirements of existing lines of railway, money available for new construction is likely to be limited for some time to come. The complaint made by the Merchants' Association, that the accommodation provided by the goods shed at the Dinajpur Station is inadequate, is being brought to the notice of the Eastern Bengal Railway administration.

9. Coming now to the question of roads, I have explained in reply to addresses presented to me at Malda why I cannot depart from the general principle that local roads are matters for which the local authority must accept responsibility. There is in this district, however, one road which constitutes a special case, in that the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam took it over in the year 1911. I refer to the road from Balurghat to Hilli. That Government were unable to complete the work which they had undertaken on the road, and under these circumstances we are prepared to do so. Some provision for this purpose will be made in the budget of the coming financial year.

10. I regret to hear of the grave inconvenience caused to the people of the town owing to constant inundations in the north-western quarter. I can quite believe that the construction of a protective embankment is a matter of importance, and if you will make formal proposals to Government for

dealing with this matter, we will see whether we cannot render you some assistance.

11. You inform me that owing to the increased expenditure which the District Board will be called upon to bear on account of the appointment of a Health Officer and the opening of new dispensaries, you will have to reduce your expenditure upon public works. I attach the utmost importance to the efforts which we are now making to improve our machinery for dealing with public health, and I feel sure that any small reduction which you may now have to make in the execution of public works will be more than compensated by the assistance which a Health Officer will be able to give you in combating disease and in bringing about a general improvement in the health of the people.

12. You raise a very big question when you ask for an amendment of the Law of Transfer, as it affects occupancy holdings. Indeed, the question of making occupancy holdings transferable without the consent of the owner has been under the consideration of Government for a number of years past. And I am afraid that I can hold out no hope of any such change at present being made.

13. I am not surprised that you have referred to the hardships of the people due to economic causes, for I know well how great have been the difficulties of the people, especially in this part of the Presidency. For the policy pursued by Government I must refer you to the reply which I made to

the addresses presented to me at Malda a day or two ago. I am glad to think that this policy is being justified by results, and that the price of common rice which was Rs. 11½ a maund at Dinajpur in September last, has fallen to under Rs. 9. I sincerely hope that in this respect the situation will show continuous improvement.

14. In conclusion, you refer to the future of the Turkish Empire. Along with you I regret most, profoundly the grievous mistake made by that country in discarding her ancient and historic friendship with Great Britain and in ranging herself alongside of the enemies of our own Empire in the great struggle which was thrust upon us. How infinitely happier would have been her present lot, had she sided with instead of against us, or even had she accepted the wise counsel so urgently pressed upon her by the statesmen of Great Britain and remained a neutral spectator of the conflict. Many Great Powers are concerned in the settlement with the Turkish Empire, as with the other enemies of Great Britain and her Allies, and under these circumstances we can only await with such patience as we are able to summon to our aid, the decision of the Peace Conference upon the question. But this assurance at least I can give you—namely, that in spite of Turkey's unprovoked hostility toward us throughout the struggle, the Government of this country in consideration of the feelings of the Muhammadan community of India, and in recognition of the close ties of friendship and of loyalty which



have characterized their relations with Great Britain during the years in which it has pleased Providence to bind together the fate and fortunes of the two peoples, have never ceased in their endeavours to secure for Turkey as favourable terms as the circumstances of the case may permit. How far the representations which have been made will prove effective, is a matter which rests upon the knees of Fate. The Government of this country have done their best—and no man can do more than that.

15. Let me conclude by thanking you most cordially for the warmth of the welcome which you have been good enough to accord to me, and for the good wishes personal to myself which you have all so kindly expressed.

*Address presented by the Commissioners of the  
Rampore-Boalia Municipality, on 26th November 1919.*

We, the Commissioners of the Rampore-Boalia Municipality beg, on behalf of ourselves and of the citizens of this town, to offer Your Excellency a most cordial and loyal welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this town.

2. As a body entrusted primarily with the health, comfort and convenience of the people of this town, we consider it our bounden duty to take this opportunity to lay before Your Excellency some of those crying needs and grievances of the town which are beyond the capacity of our limited pecuniary resources to tackle and which left to ourselves we cannot hope to remove in the near future.

3. The greatest of our troubles is the scarcity of pure drinking water in the town. Owing to the capricious shifting of the course of the Padma which is our main, though not always a pure, source of water-supply and owing also to this practical inaccessibility from many parts of the town, the bulk of its citizens are obliged to use for drinking purpose the impure water of tanks and wells in filthy surroundings. This no doubt is mainly responsible for the growing deterioration of the health of the town. The establishment of a comprehensive system of waterworks, therefore

has long been felt as a crying need of this town, but hitherto all attempts to remove it has failed for want of funds. Some years back a local committee, known as the Rajshahi Waterworks Committee, was formed to consider the whole problem, and at their instance Mr. Williams, Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Bengal, drew up a scheme of waterworks at an estimated cost of five lakhs of rupees. And the members of the said committee, bestirring themselves to tap the available sources, came to entertain very reasonable hopes of being able to raise about a moiety of this sum from these. It was at this stage of the scheme that a deputation of the said committee waited at Darjeeling upon the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda, then a Member of the Executive Council, with a prayer for a Government grant for the proposed waterworks. He very graciously held out the hope of a grant of the other half. When, however, all things promised well for the success of the scheme, the great war broke out and it had to be dropped for the time being in consequence. But now that, through the grace of God, the war is at an end, with the help of a substantial pecuniary aid from Your Excellency's sympathetic Government, we hope to be able to carry our scheme into execution and to inaugurate a new era of health and happiness for our beloved town.

4. The installation of a system of waterworks here will not only supply the people with good drinking water, but it will also help to keep

the drainage of the town, such as it is, freer from filth and the roads freer from dust which is at present the cause of pulmonary diseases, which are far from rare in this town. We venture to hope that from what has been said above we have convinced Your Excellency of the urgent need of the proposed waterworks and that our humble appeal to Your Excellency for an adequate grant for the purpose will not be in vain.

5. The second great inconvenience which this town labours under, is its practical isolation from the outside world. Though situated within a short distance of two railway lines, no serious attempt has hitherto been made to connect it with either of them. It fills us with great regret that, while two busy streams of life rush past almost by our very doors, we are doomed to vegetate in a sleepy hollow, shut out from the light and life of the larger humanity abroad. A short journey of 30 miles is, with us a veritable expedition, and it costs us more deliberation to decide upon than a week-end-trip from Calcutta to the snow-capped hills of the Himalayas. The worst of it is, that a mocking destiny has been keeping us dangling on a thin rope of hope for the last thirty years. To add to our mortification, it unhappily turns out that the order of the Government of India, which was published a few months ago, sanctioning the construction of a railway line, linking Rajshahi with the two lines on the either side of it, is to be suspended indefinitely. The fact that

such a scheme had arrived at an almost similar maturity in the 'Railway Board just before the war broke out and was doomed to be shelved owing to that event, adds poignancy to our disappointment. But although our hopes have been doomed to be disappointed so often in the past, we take fresh courage from the conviction that a Governor of Your Excellency's far-reaching vision will easily gauge the importance of a railway connection for Rajshahi and in consideration of the long period of patient waiting through which it has passed, Your Excellency will be gracious enough to confer upon it this much-needed and long-wished-for boon. It will not only rapidly develop the commerce of this district which is at present languishing for want of proper outlets, but will also contribute largely to the growth and expansion of this town in wealth, population and education for which it possesses, as the seat of a large college, and a growing museum, and the centre of the old Varendra culture, large and peculiar possibilities.

6. We beg to make another appeal to Your Excellency in a matter which vitally affects the interests of the local hospital, and we feel sure that in this cause the mute appeal of the poor suffering multitudes who are served by this hospital will go deeper into Your Excellency's generous soul than any pleadings of ours. The total annual income of the hospital from various sources is Rs. 9,800. A substantial portion of this sum is at present swallowed up by the

establishment charges of which the salary of the Assistant Surgeon alone comes up to Rs. 3,480 a year. The residue that is left to be spent upon the poor patients is too small to procure good medicine and those other necessities on which their life depends. In these circumstances we humbly pray that the salaries of the Assistant Surgeon, which is at present met from the hospital funds, may, in future, be paid by Government, so that the sum thus set free may be utilized for the benefit of the patients.

7. In passing, we cannot also help referring to the frequent transfers of professors from the local college, that have taken place in recent years. We do not, of course, mean to insist that officers should be tied down to the same place for ever in the face of all individual or public exigencies. What we beg to submit is that in the case of transfers or filling vacancies, the equilibrium of efficiency should be maintained as far as possible. But we venture to think that this principle has not been very strictly followed in the case of recent changes in the personnel of the teaching staff of the college.

8. We beg to take this opportunity of expressing our deep and abiding loyalty and devotion to the British Throne and also to give vent to the feelings of deep relief and exuberant joy which surge within our breast at the victory which principles of justice and freedom have won over those of despotism and militarism and at finding the refulgent

Sun of British power emerging more glorious than  
 ever from under 'the temporary clouds which had  
 overcast it. We consider it a great blessing that  
 in this morn of a new era of high hopes and  
 noble aspirations for humanity, 'Providence has  
 appointed a statesman of Your Excellency's deep  
 sagacity and political wisdom, wide sympathies  
 and noble imagination, as the Lord of Bengal's  
 destinies to shape and mould her future course and  
 to give her a lasting impetus in the direction of  
 progress, happiness and prosperity. We fervently  
 pray to God for a continuance of Your Excellency's  
 health and energies for the proper discharge of Your  
 Excellency's high duties and for an abiding portion  
 of peace and happiness to descend on Your Excel-  
 lency as God's blessing for Your Excellency's noble  
 labours in an exalted sphere.

9. We beg to express our heartfelt gratitude  
 to Your Excellency for the great trouble that Your  
 Excellency has taken to grace this out-of-the-way  
 place by a visit and again to accord Your Excel-  
 lency a most sincere and respectful welcome to our  
 poor town whose capacity for extending a fitting  
 reception to Your Excellency is so limited that we  
 must ask Your Excellency to make large allow-  
 ances for its shortcomings in regard to the same  
 and to accept wishes on its part as deeds.

*Address presented by the Rajshahi District Board,  
on 26th November 1919.*

1. We, the members of the Rajshahi District Board, on behalf of ourselves, as well as of the people whom we have the honour to represent, beg most respectfully to offer Your Excellency our most cordial welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to our district.

2. The vital needs of the district are Communications, Sanitation and Drainage, Water-supply, and Primary Education; and the duty of meeting these needs is entrusted to the District Board. The Board, so far as its funds permit, has tried its best to meet the requirements of the district in these matters.

3. The transfer of the Public Works Cess to the District Fund and the recent revaluation of the district have augmented the resources of this Board, and we have thereby been able to form definite programmes of work for the improvement of roads, the establishment of new dispensaries, the supply of drinking water and the construction and repair of primary school buildings. The following figures will show to what extent the expenditure on Education, Medical, Civil Works and Water-supply has increased since the transfer of the Public Works Cess in 1918-14:—

	1912-13.	1918-19.
	Rs.	Rs.
Education ...	60,000	1,20,000
Medical ...	11,000	35,000
Civil Works ...	1,09,000	2,20,000
Water-supply ...	10,000	30,000



We have also recently given a contribution of Rs. 15,000 towards the cost of the Nator Water-works which are to be opened by Your Excellency.

4. Last year an abnormal flood visited the northern and eastern parts of the district, covering an area of about 1,200 square miles and affecting about half the population of the district. With a view to afford relief to the distressed people we gave gratuitous relief and provided works by the improvement of existing roads and the construction of new ones. We have already spent over Rs. 42,000 on them. The flood, besides injuring a number of our roads and bridges, damaged 50 primary school buildings, so seriously that they require re-construction. The Board, with the funds at its disposal at present, not being able to provide more than Rs. 15,000 for the purpose, has applied for a grant of Rs. 30,000 from Government, and we pray that this grant may be sanctioned. This will enable the Board not only to re-construct the school buildings within a short period, but also to afford additional relief to the flood-affected area by providing employment for the local people.

5. As regards the drainage of the district, we understand that enquiries are being made by officers of Government about the sufficiency of waterways on the Eastern Bengal and Sara-Sirajganj Railways and about the condition of the Narod River and the opening of the river Godai near Lalor in Nator Subdivision, and we hope

that these enquiries may be hastened, so that measures for the improvement of the sanitation of the country may be taken.

6. The want of railway connection with the district headquarters is very keenly felt both for administrative and commercial purposes, and the Board in the year 1912 resolved to construct a light railway between Godagari and Nator via Rampur-Boalia, giving a guarantee of 4 per cent. on the capital outlay to a company which might undertake the work, and applied for the sanction of Government. The proposal, however, has not been accepted. We understand that a line from Ishurdi to Nachul via Rampur-Boalia has been sanctioned, and we pray that the work may be taken up at an early date, so that this our long-felt grievance may be removed.

7. In conclusion, we fervently pray to the Almighty God that Your Excellency may enjoy long life, health and prosperity.

*Address presented by the Rajshahi Association,  
on 26th November 1919*

1. We, the members of the Rajshahi Association, beg leave to offer a cordial welcome to Your Excellency on this the first visit to our town.

2. The restoration of peace and order to the civilized world, after a glorious termination of the devastating war, in which India bore her share along with the rest of the British Empire to secure victory and honour, has filled all sections of the people of this district, as it has in other parts of India, with sincere jubilation, and we venture on their behalf to convey, through Your Excellency, loyal and respectful congratulation to the Throne.

3. As representatives of the inhabitants of this district, we feel we shall be wanting in our duty if we do not lay before Your Excellency some of our pressing wants in the hope that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to bestow upon them the consideration they deserve.

4. As the 'Rajshahi' Association have always taken a keen interest in the advancement of high education, we may be permitted to express our humble appreciation of the earnest solicitation of Government to introduce educational reforms in our country.

5. In view of the unhesitating recommendations of the University Commission, regarding the establishment of a separate University for Northern Bengal, we deem it our bounden duty to give

expression to the earnest wishes of the people for such further developments of the Rajshahi College as may enable it to foster and strengthen the genuine University spirit in Rajshahi, which the learned members of the Commission noticed and noted in their report. An expansion of the Governing Body of the College, an extension of the suitable academic autonomy to them, and a further advancement of study and research, with greater efficiency of teaching, may be vouchsafed to it, to enable it to rise to the status of a University College. The re-establishment of Post-Graduate Studies and the study of Law, a further enlargement of the Laboratory and Library, with an adequately-paid efficient Librarian, a greater expenditure per head of students in the matter of staff and equipment, and more extended hostel accommodation, are, in our humble opinion, questions of great practical importance for the advancement of the Rajshahi College, and we hope they will not fail to receive early attention from Your Excellency's sympathetic Government.

6. The question of a railway connection of our town is so intimately connected with the advancement of education and material prosperity of the district that we may be permitted to hope that the sanctioned railway may not be delayed further to the continued disappointment of the people. We, however, beg to submit that, while the opening of such a line would remove the isolation of this town, it would not be so advantageous to the people of the district as a direct

railway communication with Nator, inasmuch as Nator being the centre of the most populous portion of the district, there is a constant flow of people on multifarious business between these two principal centres of the district. For this line, the Association has been repeatedly praying to the Government for upwards of 30 years. In 1884, a scheme of a light railway between these two places was almost complete, but unfortunately it fell through, and since then hopes had been held out by successive Lieutenant-Governors, and the line had also been surveyed more than once, but we are sorry to say the scheme has not matured yet.

We earnestly hope and pray that this matter may receive Your Excellency's gracious consideration, and our long-felt want may be removed as early as possible.

7. The Government has been pleased to establish here an experimental Agricultural Farm at the instance of, and with a substantial contribution from, this Association. We confidently hope that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to start an Agricultural School also in connection with it.

8. The existing Government Sericultural School, which was started with public subscription, is unfortunately now in a poor condition. Rajshahi had been a large silk-producing district, and if Government kindly develop and improve this very useful institution, a great dying industry of our district may be revived.

9. In view of the present need of the country for industrial regeneration, the question of the development and expansion of the Diamond Jubilee Industrial School has come into prominence. The existing school is of a very inferior status, teaching only a little of carpentry and smithy and surveying. To open out a career for young men, and also at the same time to meet the growing requirements of the people, it is necessary that there should be arrangements in the school for the training of foremen and chargemen, if not mechanical engineers. In the whole of the Presidency under Your Excellency's administration there is only one such institution at Sibpur.

In view of the recommendation of the University Commission industrial subjects are likely to form a part of the curriculum of the future I. Sc. course. If the existing school be developed into a school of the description indicated above, it may form a part and parcel of the Intermediate College. The Rajshahi District Board is doing all that lies in its limited means for the maintenance of the school, but we pray that Your Excellency's Government will make a suitable grant for the development of this institution.

10. In some districts of Bengal, Your Excellency's Government has granted to District Boards the much-coveted privilege of electing non-official Chairman. We fervently hope that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to extend this privilege also to the Rajshahi District Board.

Again offering Your Excellency a cordial welcome.

*Address presented by the Rajshahi Muhammadan Association, on 26th November 1919.*

WE, the Members of the Rajshahi Muhammadan Association, beg to offer to Your Excellency our heartiest welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this town.

1. The number of Muhammadan students in the Rajshahi College is 165. The present Muhammadan Hostel affords accommodation for 30 students only. Hostel accommodation for at least 100 students more is an urgent necessity. We understand that for the present a hostel for 50 students has been sanctioned. We pray that its construction may be expedited and another hostel for 50 students may be sanctioned at an early date.

2. The introduction of the new scheme in the Junior Madrassa here has attracted a good number of students. A Government Senior Madrassa in this Division, we venture to suggest, will serve as a model to similar institutions in the Division. There was a Senior Madrassa here. We, therefore, pray that the Junior Madrassa here may be raised to the status of a Senior Madrassa, as our community attaches much importance to religious instruction along with secular education.

3. There is one Professor and one Lecturer in the Rajshahi College for teaching Arabic and

Persian, both of whom are M. A.'s in Arabic. An additional Professor of Persian will enable them to teach not only the Pass Course, but also Honours in Arabic. For want of an additional Professor, Muhammadan students, desirous of taking up Honours in Arabic, are debarred from doing so. We, therefore, pray that an additional Professor of Persian or Arabic may be sanctioned.

4. About 75 per cent. of the population of this district are Mussalmans and most of them are agriculturists. There is an Experimental Government Farm at the headquarters. The establishment of an Agricultural School on the lines of the proposed school at Dacca, along with the Farm, will enable many youths to learn agriculture on better methods and earn a decent living. We, therefore, pray that an Agricultural School may be sanctioned here at an early date.

5. Before the construction of the Physical Laboratory, some of the rooms of the Madrassa buildings were used as Physics Lecture Hall and Laboratory. And in reply to our address presented to His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare he was pleased to observe that the Madrassa rooms would be resorted to the Madrassa as soon as the proposed Physical Laboratory was built. The Physical Laboratory has long been constructed and the Physical Laboratory has been removed, but the Madrassa rooms are used as class-rooms for the college. The number of students in the Madrassa having increased, some



of the Madrassa class-rooms have become too congested. We, therefore, pray that those rooms may be restored to the Madrassa to afford more accommodation to the students, and also for the purpose of allowing some of the rooms to be used as office room, teacher's room and a library.

6. In conclusion, we fervently pray to the Almighty God that Your Excellency may enjoy long life, health, happiness and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented,  
at Rampore-Boalia, on 26th November 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

It has given me much satisfaction to receive addresses of welcome on this the occasion of my first official visit to the district of Rajshahi from the Municipal and District Boards, and the Rajshahi and Muhammadan Associations. And I hasten to express my grateful thanks for the very kind words in which you have been good enough to couch your references to myself. I join heartily with the Municipal Commissioners in their expressions of joyful satisfaction at the ~~triumphant~~ conclusion of the great war. And, while I fear that some time must still elapse before we shall be able to shake ourselves altogether free from its baleful effects—so great has been the disorganization of the affairs of men which it has brought about—yet I feel sure that sooner or later we must reap the reward of the immense sacrifices made in the supreme cause of justice and of right.

2. I was concerned to learn from an incidental remark in the address presented by the Municipality that there was a growing deterioration in the health of the town. I am glad to say, however, that a perusal of the vital statistics for the last ten years has had a re-assuring effect upon my mind. It is the case that in the years 1909 and

1918 the death-rate was unusually high; but this was due to exceptional causes, and notably in 1918, to the disastrous Influenza epidemic which swept not only over India, but over the whole world. I am happy to say that with the exception of these two years the death-rate of Rampore-Boalia compares favourably with that of any reasonably healthy town.

3. Nevertheless, I agree with the Municipal Commissioners that a modern water-supply would be of great advantage to the town. At present, however, there is no definite scheme before Government; and if you will have one prepared and sent up for consideration in the ordinary way, with an estimate of the amount which you are able to promise towards it from local sources, I think I can promise you that you will find Government ready to come to your assistance with a grant towards the capital cost.

4. I congratulate you upon the excellent work which is being done at the hospital in the town. I am afraid, however, that you have not made out a sufficiently strong case to enable me to ask Government to relieve you of the responsibility for finding the salary of the Civil Assistant Surgeon in charge of it. As you probably know, the rules on this point are seldom departed from and then only under the most exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances do not seem to me to exist in the case of the Rampore-Boalia Hospital. The accounts of the hospital during the past few years

show a closing balance annually of over Rs. 6,000 in its favour. Moreover, before Government were prepared to relieve the Hospital Committee of the charge in respect of the Assistant Surgeon's salary, they would, I think, expect an effort to be made to increase the subscriptions obtained from private sources. These are very small and for the last ten years have amounted to less than five per cent. of the total income.

5. I view with interest and sympathy the desire displayed by the Rajshahi Association for the advancement of the Rajshahi College. Until the recommendations of the University Commission have been fully considered by Government, it would be premature for me to say anything with regard to your larger hopes. But in one or two of the matters of importance in connection with the college which you urge upon my attention, I am in a position to meet your wishes. A proposal for the appointment of a Librarian is under consideration; and we have already given administrative approval to the construction of two large hostels, one in five blocks for 250 Hindu boarders, and another for 50 Muhammadan boarders. Indeed, we have provided funds in the budget of the current year to enable work to be begun on the Hindu hostel, and detailed plans and estimates for the Muhammadan hostel are being prepared by the Superintending Engineer.

6. I learned with great regret of the damage done to the primary schools in the district by

the disastrous floods of last year, and I am grateful to the District Board for what it is doing to make good the damage. This is certainly a case in which you are entitled to look to Government for assistance, and though I am not able to promise you the full amount for which you ask, I hope that we shall be able to place about Rs. 22,000 at your disposal for the purpose.

7. In reply to your request for the establishment of a 'Government Agricultural School, I must refer you to the answer which I gave to a similar request made by the people of Sirajganj a short time ago. I then pointed out that we were establishing two Agricultural Middle Schools as an experimental measure, one at Dacca and the other at Chinsura, and that, until experience had proved that such schools were justified by results, it was premature to extend the experiment. The school at Dacca will be opened in January next, and a prospectus, which is now under preparation, will be obtainable from the Director of Agriculture.

8. I am in full sympathy with those who desire to see far greater provision made for industrial training than exists at the present time in Bengal. But conditions here are not suitable for the establishment of the kind of institution which the address of the Rajshahi Association seems to contemplate, and I notice that the District Board which maintains the Diamond Jubilee Industrial School, makes no

such request. It is generally recognized by industrialists at the present day that the training of foremen mechanics can best be given at places where there are large engineering works at which the practical side of the training can be carried out. The Bengal Government are in agreement with this view; and we are engaged at the present time in arranging for technical schools in connection with the railway works at Kanchrapara and the big engineering works in Calcutta. I dealt with this most important question at a Conference of experts and businessmen which was held in Calcutta on the 18th of this month, and I would refer those who are interested in this matter to the proceedings of that Conference.

9. The address of the Muhammadan Association naturally lays stress upon certain educational matters affecting their community. I am glad to learn that the new scheme in the Junior Madrasa has proved attractive. I have not hitherto been aware of any great demand for a Senior Madrasa in the neighbourhood; but I have mentioned the matter to the Director of Public Instruction who will be prepared to examine sympathetically any figures which may be put up, showing how far there is a demand for such an institution in Rajshahi.

10. It certainly seems to me that the authorities of the Madrasa have some grounds for complaint, in that the Madrasa class-rooms which are being used by the college have not yet been

restored to them. The matter was brought to the notice of Government as a result of the visit of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education in August last; and I hope that a satisfactory settlement of the question may be reached at an early date.

11. So far as the teaching of Arabic and Persian at the college is concerned, we are considering the question of appointing an additional Lecturer. I also realize the advantage of adequate hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students. I have already informed you that plans and estimates are being prepared for a hostel to accommodate 50 students at a probable cost to Government of Rs. 55,000. I am told that the existing hostel and the four college messes have accommodation for 162 students, between them, so that when the new hostel is ready, there will be accommodation for 150 students, which should be adequate, the total number of Muhammadan students at the college at the present time being 157.

12. I regret that the people of Rajshahi should have been given any cause for dissatisfaction on account of recent transfers of professors from the local college. In matters of this kind certain difficulties are always likely to arise under the "Service system." But we shall take special care to see that as little inconvenience as possible is caused in the future.

13. A reference is made in the address of the Rajshahi Association to the Government Sericultural School. This school has been maintained by

Government since 1907. Scholarships are given, half of which are reserved for qualified candidates from the Rajshahi district if such candidates are forthcoming, and rewards are granted to passed students of the school for the purpose of erecting model rearing houses for silk worms. The people of Rajshahi, however, do not seem to take advantage of the facilities afforded by the school, and nearly the whole of the present students come from Malda. Under these circumstances it is the intention of Government to establish a school for the Malda people in that district itself; and the future of the Rajshahi School will depend entirely upon the extent to which it is made use of by the people of Rajshahi.

14. I note the desire which is expressed in the address of the Rajshahi Association that the system under which a District Board is given the right of electing its own Chairman should be extended to this district. It is my intention to deal with this question at the Conference of representatives of District Boards which I have invited to meet me at Government House, Calcutta, on December, the 4th.

15. I sympathize with the people in their natural anxiety to see Rampore-Boalia linked up with the railways of the country; but railway projects, as you know, are matters over which the Local Government has very little control. The only information which I can give you is that a broad-gauge line from Ishurdi to Rampore-Boalia



and Nachoul is included in the list of railway projects to be financed by Government funds. When its construction will be taken up, I cannot tell you for, frankly, I do not know.

16. I have made careful enquiry into the question of drainage which is referred to in the address of the District Board. The matters mentioned require comprehensive examination by irrigation experts, and owing to the depletion of the staff of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department are still awaiting investigation. How soon such an investigation can be taken up, must depend upon how soon it is found possible to give effect to our proposals for bringing the Irrigation staff up to strength.

17. Now I have done my best to deal with the matters to which you have invited my attention; and it only remains for me to thank you once more for your kindly welcome. The Municipal Commissioners beg me to make allowances for what, with extreme modesty, they describe as shortcomings in regard to the arrangements made by the town to receive me. Let me assure them that there is no cause at all for them to make such a request. Nothing could have afforded me greater pleasure than the actual welcome which I have received.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the  
Varendra Research Museum, on 27th November 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am delighted to have been able to accept your invitation to perform the ceremony of formally declaring this museum to be open. I have little doubt that it will prove a suitable home for the Varendra Research Society and that it will become a well-known centre of research of a kind which has hitherto been sadly neglected by the people of this country. It is, indeed, largely on account of this neglect that historians have found themselves faced with such formidable difficulties in dealing with any but comparatively recent periods in the engrossing story of the part played by the people of India in the evolution of mankind. How great those difficulties are, must have been fully realized by the learned President of the Society when he first began collecting material for a racial history of Bengal; and, indeed, after hearing the interesting speech which he has just delivered, I am inclined to think that this very difficulty had an important influence in leading him to undertake the work of excavation which has already produced such striking results.

The activities of the Varendra Research Society, then, are of the greatest value on two

accounts, firstly, on account of the intrinsic importance of the information already brought to light, and, secondly, on account of the excellent example which is being set, and which, it is to be hoped, will kindle the interest and excite the emulation of other cultured men in other parts of the country. Then again, looking at it from a somewhat different point of view—namely, that of the influence which research work of this kind is able to bear upon education—we find that results have already been achieved, results which attracted the attention of the eminent educationalists who served as members of the University Commission. They were struck, as we have been reminded by the author of the report on the work of the Society, by the evidence which they found of the existence of genuine intellectual interests quite independent of the business of examination coaching, and they were clearly much impressed by the influence which the work of the Society exercised upon the college teachers.

I am not myself competent to give any adequate estimate of the results which the Society has already achieved. That they are considerable is obvious from the testimony borne by a number of authorities. Mr. Vincent Smith has acknowledged the important part played by the discoveries of the Society in the reconstruction of the history, so far as that has hitherto been possible, of the Pala Dynasty—a dynasty which did much to heighten the prestige of Bengal. Then again, it is a great feather

in the cap of the Society that the scheme of ethnic stratification and classification of Indian people put forward by Mr. Rama Prosad Chanda, who was the first Secretary of the Society, should have been adopted by so distinguished a scholar as Professor Ruggeri, of Naples. I feel sure, too, that Sanskritists must appreciate the value of the Society's work in collecting and publishing little known but important manuscripts, among which I notice is a commentary on the famous grammatical work of Panini. All this gives excellent promise for the future. There is a branch of Philosophy upon which, I believe, orientalists would be glad to see a great deal more light shed, than has hitherto been the case, namely, the doctrine of the Mahayana School of Buddhism. Interest in this subject is even now leading ~~engineers~~ to examine manuscripts which have for centuries lain buried, so far as the outside world is concerned, in the monasteries of Tibet. And much of interest will no doubt be forthcoming as a result of their labours. But it occurs to me that in the soil of Varendra there may lie hidden another mine of information bearing upon the same subject. The Pala Dynasty was a Buddhist Dynasty, and under their rule their kingdom, known as the Kingdom of Gauda, became the centre of Buddhist culture. The famous University of Nalanda was situated within its borders; and it was from Nalanda that the celebrated monk, Guru Padma Sambhava, issued forth to introduce the doctrine of Buddhist tantricism into Tibet. A number of the images, which

repose in this Muséum, are Buddhist works of the Gaudian School. It is surely more than a possibility under these circumstances that further discoveries await the members of your Society which may throw instructive light upon the subject to which I have referred.

In conclusion, I must congratulate you upon having cultured and influential patrons who are both able and willing to grant you that material assistance without which the work of the Society could not have been carried on. The Society will ever remain under a deep debt of gratitude to the Founder-President, Mr. Sarat Kumar Ray, for his princely generosity towards it; and its thanks are likewise due to Raja Prantada Nath Ray, of Dighapatia, for his generous and highly-valued support.

In declaring the buildings open, I offer to the Society my sincere wishes for a long and illustrious career

*Address presented by the Commissioners of the Nator Municipality, on 28th November 1919.*

1. We, the Commissioners of the Nator Municipality, on behalf of the people of Nator, most humbly and respectfully beg leave to offer our sincere, cordial and respectful welcome to Your Excellency on the happy occasion of Your Excellency's gracious visit to this historic town. Nator, though a small town, has been in the enjoyment of Municipal privileges since 1869 when many of the district towns were without them.

2. We gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our deep and abiding sense of loyalty and unflinching devotion to the Person and Throne of His Most Gracious Majesty, the King-Emperor, and our heartfelt gratitude and unbounded joy for the happy termination of world-wide war in favour of the British and Allied Powers, though unfortunately economic causes do not at present permit us to realize the full benefits and significance of this long-looked-for Peace.

3. We are deeply grateful to Your Excellency's Government for the very generous and sympathetic way in which it has helped this Municipality to complete the Nator Waterworks scheme even during the economic stress of the great war. The waterworks which will be formally opened to-day by Your Excellency, is sufficient to supply the needs of only 5,000 persons out of a total population of

8,251 living within Municipal limits. The necessity of obtaining a supply of pure drinking water for this town has long been felt. In 1908, when Mr. A. C. Mackertich was Subdivisional Officer of Nator and Chairman of this Municipality, a meeting, to devise ways and means, was held at the Nator Rajbari at which Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray, of Nator, Raja Pramada Nath Ray, of Dighapatia, and the leading gentry of the town were present. Subscriptions, amounting to Rs. 9,045, were promised on the spot for a Faridpur pattern filter, estimated to cost Rs. 11,426. This scheme was not considered suitable, and in 1911 a proposal to supply filtered water from tank through distribution pipes was made. The present site was selected for the tank after trial borings at several places, and an estimate of Rs. 67,700 was prepared by the Sanitary Engineer. Owing to the abnormal rise in the price of materials due to the war, the estimate ultimately reached the present figure of Rs. 83,682. The whole work has now been satisfactorily completed in the face of many unforeseen difficulties due to last year's flood, under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Engineer of Bengal and his able Assistant, Mr. Griffin. We are grateful for the interest taken in the scheme by Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley (our former Magistrate and Collector and now Secretary to Your Excellency's Government), by Mr. A. Cassells (our present District Magistrate) and last though not least by Mr. Sen (our late Subdivisional Officer and Chairman), who during the last three years of his tenure of office

spared no pains to expedite the work. Out of the total estimated cost, the benign Government has been pleased to contribute Rs. 45,330, including supervision charges, i.e., more than half the entire cost. The District Board generously contributed Rs. 15,000, and the rest has been paid from public subscription and Municipal funds. The site of the tank, comprising 86 bighas, valued at Rs. 4,000, is the free gift of the Junior Branch of the Nator Estate. The other donors of large sums are Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray, of Nator (Rs. 3,000), Raja Pramada Nath Ray, of Dighapatia (Rs. 1,500), and Babu Chandra Nath Pramanik (Rs. 1,500), and Srijukta Jagadiswari Debi, of Sarkutia Estate of Nator (Rs. 1,000).

4. As some important and crowded localities have been left out of the scheme for want of funds, we humbly beseech Your Excellency's help to complete the project by making a further grant of Rs. 10,000.

5. The existence of many stagnant tanks and ditches, covered with rank vegetation and the moribund condition of the silted-up river Narod, have rendered the town notoriously unhealthy. We beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the question of resuscitating this river and of hastening the enquiry into the drainage of Nator and its neighbourhood which, it is understood, Government have been contemplating for some time.

6. The question of linking Nator directly with Rajshahi by railway has been engaging the



attention of the Government for a long time, but we are still experiencing the disadvantages of the absence of the railway communication. We understand that it is proposed to construct a line from Ishurgi to Rajshahi. We beg to submit that this project may be reconsidered by Your Excellency's Government, as it will be of no advantage to us.

7. In conclusion, we fervently pray that Your Excellency may be blessed by Providence with long life, health and prosperity, and that it may be possible for Your Excellency to remove many of our wants and thereby earn the lasting gratitude and blessings of thousands of helpless people committed to Your Excellency's care.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Municipal Address  
presented at Nator, on 28th November 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

Permit me to express to you my sincere thanks for the kindly words of welcome which you have addressed to me. And at the same time allow me cordially to acknowledge the sentiments of loyalty and of devotion to the Person and Throne of His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor which find expression in your address. I share with you both your heartfelt satisfaction at the victorious conclusion of the war and your regret at the delay in the restoration of normal conditions. With so tremendous a convulsion in all the affairs of mankind and, especially in the sphere of economics, it is inevitable, I am afraid, that a considerable time should elapse before we can hope to reap the full reward of the tremendous sacrifices which have been made in the cause of justice and righteousness.

2. The chief object of my visit is to perform the opening ceremony of the Nator Waterworks; and I am glad that I have found it possible to accept the invitation so kindly extended to me by the Municipality, because I am always delighted of an opportunity of associating myself with enterprises, such as this, which are designed to bring about an improvement in the public health, and of thereby emphasizing the immense importance which

I attach to progress on these lines. The works which I am about to open, have involved a considerable outlay—indeed, owing to the enhanced price of materials, the total cost, which has amounted to Rs. 87,872, has exceeded the original estimate by Rs. 20,000. And even at this cost it has not been possible to provide the whole town with pure water, so that you have in contemplation an extension which will probably cost an additional Rs. 10,000. The question is, how is this further sum to be raised. Government have already contributed more than half the total cost of the present works, and in face of the many similar demands, which are being made upon us from various parts of the Presidency, I am afraid we should not feel justified in making a further grant in this case. At the same time the extension is undoubtedly required, and a detailed estimate, amounting to Rs. 9,799, has been prepared. You have a small saving of Rs. 810, I believe, on the scheme which has just been completed, leaving you a sum of Rs. 9,000 to find for the extension. There seem to be two courses open to you, namely, to invite further subscriptions from the public, and to raise a loan. There is no reason why you should not pursue both these courses. You are already indebted to the Junior Branch of the Nator Estate, to Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray, of Nator, to Raja Pramada Nath Ray, of Dighapatia, to Babu Chandra Nath Pramanic and to Srijukta Jagadiswari Debi for their generosity and public spirit. It may be that fired by their example

others may come forward in response to an appeal I shall be glad to mark the occasion of my visit by a contribution of Rs. 1,000. When the resources of private generosity are exhausted, the Municipality should be able to meet the balance by loan, since I understand that it possesses a free annual surplus sufficient to finance a loan for some thousands of rupees.

3. Though, as I have said, the main object of my visit is to open the waterworks, you have not unnaturally taken advantage of my presence amongst you to invite my attention to two other matters, namely, the question of resuscitating the Narod River and that of linking up Nator directly with Rajshahi by railway. I have already explained in reply to addresses presented to me at Rampore-Boalia that our delay in taking up the investigation of the Narod River is due to shortage of staff in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department. It is probably not realized, except by experts, that an examination of what appears at first sight to be a local problem, will necessitate a very comprehensive investigation of the drainage conditions over a very large area, especially in regard to the rivers and drainage systems feeding the Narod River, and will necessitate the employment of a special staff. The whole question of the staffing of the Irrigation Branch is receiving our attention at the present time, and much must depend upon decisions which are come to with regard to it.

4. So far as the railway question is concerned, you overestimate the control which the Local Government exercises in such matters. Programmes of railway development are drawn up by the Railway Board, and I have given all the information which I possess in respect of the programme of construction in Northern Bengal in reply to the addresses which I received at Rampore-Boalia. It now only remains for me to thank you once more for the good wishes which you have expressed, and for the cordiality of your welcome; and to express the hope that the waterworks, which I am now about to declare open, will prove of real and lasting benefit to the people.

*His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's  
Dinner, Calcutta, on 29th November 1919.*

GENTLEMEN,

There has been a break in the continuity of the St. Andrew's Day Dinners, and it is almost inevitable that I should begin my speech with the obvious remark that a period of six years has elapsed since the Scotsmen of Calcutta last met together to celebrate the anniversary of our Patron Saint. Not that that is necessarily a bad thing. On the contrary the keenest appetites are the better at times for a period of enforced restraint, and I am sure that the haggis has tasted the sweeter to the tongue, by reason of long abstinence from that particular pleasure of the flesh, while the national beverage must surely have become soft and mellow during its long rest in the still depths of the cellar bins. In one respect a continuity particularly gratifying to myself has been preserved during the intervening years. I refer to the admirable tradition, now happily seldom departed from, that the Head of the Administration in Bengal should be a Scotsman.

No land can ever be quite the same as the land of our fathers, and there are times like the present, for example, when hearing the skirl of the pipes upon the air and feeling the rustle of the kilt against the knee one thinks regretfully of the land

of one's birth, of the purple heather upon the hill-side, of the soft Scotch mist blowing through the birch and the pine, of the homely glow of the peat upon the hearth. But while the fibre of our innermost being may be deep rooted in soil of our own land, we may yet find room within our hearts for a profound affection for "The land we live in." And, indeed, that land being India, how could it be otherwise? Its very soil is hallowed for us, watered as it is by the blood and tears of some of the most gallant of our own stock. This vast city in which we live—the second city in the British Empire—is in itself an enduring monument to the character, the tenacity, the immortal heroism of a long succession of men of British stock amongst whom will be found a liberal sprinkling of names which have long been cherished as household words in the rugged, but eminently lovable highlands and lowlands of Scotland.

Of Course we are not all heroes! Some of us are quite ordinary men. Let me make that admission at once, lest inadvertently I give cause to our non-Scottish fellow-citizens to blaspheme. But even to the ordinary man, it is given to do something for the land he lives in, in return for the hospitality which he receives. In my position I naturally see more of the work of those who serve under me than is seen by the public at large. I once heard the Secretaries to Government compared to the fountains in Trafalgar Square—which

play daily from 11 to 4 at the public expense. I fancy the joker who was responsible for this witticism was one who would have liked to have been a Secretary to Government himself, but who had not succeeded in so becoming. But be that as it may, a period of more than 2½ years during which I have been in close and constant touch with the daily work of the Secretary to Government, has convinced me that the land they live in owes more to them than they are ever likely to get credit for. And when I say that, I am thinking of the "Secretary to Government" as a type. The man who is a Secretary to Government to-day may be a District Officer to-morrow, away from Calcutta with its comfortable modernity, its clubs and its theatres, its golf courses and its race courses, its Mayor and its Corporation—fighting single handed plague, famine and pestilence. Or he may be occupied in grappling with problems of Education or of Engineering or of Agriculture or, indeed, of any of the technical businesses which are so closely bound up with the material progress of the land we live in. There is one such man who will, I think, receive the credit that is his due—at any rate from that part of the population which estimates the land it lives in mainly in terms of jute. I refer to the man who has made jute grow 15 feet high where it only grew 12 feet before; and who has consequently already opened up a prospect not merely of glutting the voracious appetite of the Kamarhatti and other dragons for fodder; but also of adding a tidy sum which may not improbably,



at no very distant date, run into crores of rupees a year to the earnings of the tiller of the soil. Of course, he is a Scotsman.

There are other men who are doing other things for the material progress of the land we live in. Our educationalists, under the wise and sympathetic guidance of the Hon'ble the Maharaja-dhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, are even at this moment arranging to provide that long-felt want, the foreman mechanic. I have long been oppressed with the feeling that, while we have furnished the Commerce of Calcutta with the most admirable body of clerks, we have hitherto failed in staffing its industry with that most important adjunct, the foreman mechanic. I have quite recently had an opportunity of informing the public of what we are doing in that respect, and I need, therefore, say no more under that head now.

Then again, we are trying at one and the same time to add to the efficiency of labour, and to the happiness and contentment of the people by waging war against those pests of Bengal, the malaria-bearing mosquito and the hook-worm, and generally by improving the conditions of life of the labouring population. In this respect we are receiving notable assistance from employers of labour and particularly from that good Scotsman, Mr. A. R. Murray, who would undoubtedly have been with us to-night, had it not been for the fact that he is representing the employers of this country at the International Congress on labour

questions at Washington. I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him for his personal interest in, and generous financial support of measures of sanitary improvement, which should have the effect of converting the Municipality of Titagarh into a model borough from the sanitary point of view.

But great though are those things which we are doing, they are as nothing compared with those things which we are going to do. Some day we are going to build a bridge over Tolly's Nullah in place of the Kidderpore Bridge that we have pulled down. Some day we are going to have a Grand Trunk Canal. Some day we are going to span the Hooghly with a brand new bridge. And some day, perhaps, we are going to relieve the congestion of Calcutta by transferring from its present site, the Mint. Indeed, if I were to go on telling you of all the things that some day we are going to do, we should certainly not go home till morning. The cynic may say that India is a never-never-land where in the matter of things that we are some day going to do we pile Mount Ossa upon Mount Pelion. No doubt in India as elsewhere human achievement falls lamentably short of human aspiration. But do not chide us too severely for pitching our aspirations beyond our capacity for achievement. For if we did not pitch our ambition high, our accomplishment would be in danger of sinking to those chilly regions somewhere below zero.

I have touched briefly upon the material progress of the land we live in. But material progress is a thing of dry bones, unless it is warmed into vitality by the life-giving blood of moral progress. And I use the word "moral" in that wide sense which it bears when it occurs in the title of the report issued annually to Parliament on the "Moral and Material Progress of India." Much water has flowed down the Hooghly since the last St. Andrew's Day Dinner. The goal of British rule in India has been clearly and authoritatively defined. The road thither is even now being marked out. The road leading to really great achievements is never an easy one to travel. The greater the achievement aimed at, the more difficult and arduous is the road. The goal in the words of the official statement is "The progressive realization of Responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire." And the road thither "the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions." I am not going to abuse your hospitality by inflicting upon you a polemical contribution to the political controversies of the day. I desire only to paint in very broad outline the future of the land we live in as it outlines itself in my imagination. The future of the land we live in, as I picture it, may be likened to a splendid edifice, built upon a firm foundation of pillared arches. The pillars, as I see them, are the two great races whose lot has been so strangely inter-twined by the finger of "Providence—

the Indian and the British. The keystones of the arches are the will on the part of both races to understand and co-operate with one another. And for the building of those arches a special responsibility rests upon all in authority in this land and in special degree upon the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. For the proper discharge of those responsibilities a man needs many qualities—but above all the gift of imagination without which he will assuredly be in constant danger of succumbing to that most paralysing of all complaints—political myopia. It is so easy to get snowed under by detail; to lose sight of the wood on account of the multitude of its trees. He must make it his unceasing endeavour to remove misunderstandings natural enough between peoples born and reared in different hemispheres, nourished on different traditions, the heirs of civilisations differing widely in many of their most essential characteristics; but as fatal to the building of the edifice which I have in view as were the misunderstandings due to the multiplicity of tongues to the construction of the Tower of Babel.

In the present Viceroy we have an English gentleman in the finest meaning of that term—a man of sterling character and of high ideals. Few can realize the real magnitude of the task with which he has been confronted in recent years, or the immense and unceasing strain which it must have placed upon him. He has faced it with unflinching courage and with cheerful zeal. In the

discharge of the tremendous responsibilities which still lie before him, he deserves the whole-hearted encouragement and support of all. I am sure that he will have it, for I have every confidence in the genius of my race for rising to the height of a great occasion. And could any greater reward be given to any one of us when the time comes for us to look back over the tale of our years in this land, than to realize that he had been instrumental in laying at least one stone firmly and well in the raising of that majestic structure which shall constitute a glorious and abiding synthesis of all that is greatest and most enduring in the civilisation, the culture and the character of the leading races of East and West? I give you the toast of "The Viceroy and the land we live in."

*His Excellency's Speech at the Centenary Celebration of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., Calcutta, on 2nd December 1919.*

GENTLEMEN,

You will all wish, I am sure, to congratulate the genial head of Calcutta's oldest mercantile house upon the 100 years' record of its existence in Calcutta of which he has given us a brief sketch this afternoon. Throughout its career the house has been closely connected with the family of Gladstone, which has played so marked a part in the commercial life of Great Britain during the past century; and to any one who has read a history of the firm, it is a little surprising that the name of Gladstone has found no place in its official title. However, the firm became known as Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co. so long ago as 1833, being called after the founder and a partner during the early days of its existence, and it is no doubt important in the case of mercantile houses that continuity should be preserved in name as well as in fact. ...

Mr. Grazebrook has told us of the arrival of Mr. Gillanders in Calcutta, in the year 1819. And it is interesting to try and form a mental picture of life in Calcutta at that time. I am,

not sure which would be the most astonished—Mr. Grazebrook if the wheel of time could be reversed and he found himself suddenly in the shoes of Mr. Gillanders 'a century back, or Mr. Gillanders if he could return and step in to Mr. Grazebrook's shoes to-day. In the former event Mr. Grazebrook would find the Marquis of Hastings installed as Governor-General of Fort William, and in place of the imposing city which bears the name of Calcutta to-day, he would find himself an inhabitant of a modest town, wholly without sanitation, whose main source of drinking water was the *Laldighi*, better known to us as Dalhousie Square. In place of the electric trams and motor-cars which add to the convenience as well as to the terrors of the town to-day, he would see the picturesque phaeton and the leisurely palanquin. At sunrise or soon after he would take his early morning ride much as he does to-day, and at 9 A.M. he would breakfast. At 10 A.M. he would repair to office just as, I suppose, he does now; but at 2 P.M. he would be a little disconcerted to find that it was time to sit down to dinner. After that he would no doubt take kindly to the siesta as, indeed, for all I know, he may do now; and towards sunset he would take a walk or drive or go for a row on the river. This he would follow up with tea and perhaps a few calls, returning to office at 7-30 P.M. He would round off the day with supper at 10 P.M., succeeded by cards, music or a dance. When attending

a dance he would neither fox trot, nor bunny lag, nor jazz to excruciating noises, as I rather suspect he does to-day: on the contrary, he would tread a stately measure to the accompaniment of the dignified rhythm of the country dance or the minuet.

On the whole I think he would find life less exhausting than it is to-day. The ordinary office hours of 10 to 1-30 and 7-30 to 9 left a man considerable leisure, more especially as the evening hours seem to have been kept chiefly when a ship was entering or leaving port—an occurrence as irregular then as it has been during the past five years.

The most striking development of the past 100 years has been brought about by the mercantile houses of Calcutta themselves of which that of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. is so conspicuous an example. When Mr. Gillanders first trod the streets of Calcutta, the foreign sea-borne trade of the city amounted to six crores of rupees. To-day when its streets resound to the toot of Mr. Grazebrook's motor horn, the city's foreign trade totals no less than 175 crores of rupees. In 1818-19, 575 ships from abroad, with an aggregate displacement of 217,000 tons, entered and cleared at the port; in 1918-19, the number was 952 with a displacement of 2,719,000 tons, the equivalent figures for the last year before the war being 1,298 ships with a displacement of 3,870,000 tons.



There has been a change in the character of the trade also. When Mr. Gillanders came to Calcutta the chief exports were indigo, raw silk and cotton, sugar, opium and saltpetre and manufactures of cotton and silk. A few hand-made gunnies and gunny-bags were exported from Bengal, but the exports of raw jute were so small that they were not even shown in the returns. Tea did not figure among the exports until 20 years after Mr. Gillanders' arrival. Now consider the change which has been brought about by the enterprise and business acumen of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. and their fellow firms. To-day jute and tea form the pillars of the export trade which embraces no less than one hundred different countries scattered over the whole face of the civilized and uncivilized globe. From a consignment of 488 lbs. of tea exported in 1838 the export reached a total of 225 million lbs., valued at 12 crores of rupees, last year.

A few round figures will give an idea of what the mercantile houses of Calcutta have succeeded in doing with the fibre of the plant which is so well known to us under the name of jute. Well, last year they exported more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  million bales of raw jute at a value of nearly  $12\frac{3}{4}$  crores of rupees. In addition to this the mills in Bengal consumed 5,000,000 bales of raw jute and exported jute manufactures worth more than 35 million pounds sterling. An analysis of the import trade would tell a similar story.

But the mercantile houses of which that of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. is typical, have large ideas which would scorn to stop at the mere handling of imports and exports. They dig mines and they build railways—at least they have covered the cart road from Siliguri to Darjeeling with a beautiful net-work of level crossings, and they call it the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway! There is one other mysterious occupation in which they indulge, and with regard to which they issue peremptory orders to the public through the agency of the daily press. Every morning when I open my paper with a view to studying the news or to seeing what I myself have said the day before, my eye is caught by this bald and peremptory order—"Insure it with Gillanders." I am getting quite excited about it, because I feel that one day I shall open my paper to find my curiosity satisfied and a plain instruction issued as to what it is that I am being ordered to insure.

Well, I have said enough, perhaps, to show how large a part the mercantile houses of Calcutta have played in the development of this land. They have been much more than traders, they have been the pioneers of Empire. It was a favourite saying of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain when he was propounding his creed of a united Empire that "trade follows the flag." In the building of the mighty structure of British India,

it, has been the flag that has followed trade—the trader has been the pioneer; the administrator has followed after. Let us then drink to the health, and the continued success and prosperity of the mercantile houses of Calcutta, and in particular to the house that Gillanders built, coupling with our toast and including in our good wishes right heartily our kindly hosts and hostesses of this afternoon—Mr. and Mrs. Grazebrook, and Mr. and Mrs. Willis.

***His Excellency's Address to Recipients of Sanads,  
and Badges, etc., at the Darbar held in Govern-  
ment House, Calcutta, on 3rd December 1919.***

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULVI HIDAYET HOSSAIN,

You have gained considerable distinction as an Arabic and Persian Scholar and the value and importance of your work is appreciated throughout and beyond India. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I hand to you the sanad of the title which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has been pleased to confer upon you in recognition of your services.

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT BAIKUNTHA NATH  
TARKABHUSAN,

Your profound erudition and scholarship has won for you a place not only as one of the leading pandits in Eastern Bengal, but throughout India as an authority on Hindu Logic and as a prominent Sanskrit scholar. I have great pleasure in handing to you the sanad of the title which has been conferred upon you in appreciation of the valuable contribution you have made to the spread of Sanskrit education.

**IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER.**

RAI GANGA CHARAN CHATARJI BAHADUR,

After an excellent record in the Provincial Executive Service, you were appointed to hold

a listed post as Magistrate and Collector, and in this capacity you maintained the high standard which you had set yourself and you retired last year after a long and meritorious service. I congratulate you on the Order which has been granted to you.

MR. REGINALD CYRIL SAYEDRA,

You completed thirty years of good and loyal service in the Police Department. Your work, which has frequently involved the most exacting duties, has been marked by strict integrity and high ability. I congratulate you on the honour which has been granted to you.

### *KAISER-I-HIND (GOLD) MEDAL.*

MR. A. D. PICKFORD,

Your work in the public cause is well known in Calcutta and beyond. In spite of the many calls upon your time, you have always ungrudgingly devoted yourself to any movement directed towards the promotion of the common good. Your enthusiasm and prudent counsel have inspired and guided any movement to which you have given your support and interest. Your work for the domiciled community and your leadership in the Boy Scout movement have shown the public spirit characterising and prompting all your activities.

I congratulate you most heartily upon the honour which has been conferred upon you.

RAI BAHADURS,

It has given me great pleasure to present you with the sanads of the titles which have been conferred upon you.

RAI ABINASH CHANDRA BANARJI BAHADUR,

You have rendered valuable service as Secretary to the Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta, and your work has been highly appreciated by the Government of India.

RAI ONKAR MAL JATIA BAHADUR,

Always a generous supporter of charitable objects of every kind, you rendered exceptional service by your own liberal contributions to various war funds and by inducing others to follow your lead. Your public spirit has won you the genuine respect of your fellow-citizens.

RAI BIJAY KRISANA BASU BAHADUR,

You have carried out your duties for the past twelve years as Superintendent of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens with conspicuous success. During this period the gardens have made marked progress, and you have thus rendered notable service to the public...

RAI SMARAT KUMAR RAHA BAHADUR,

You have completed twenty years' service of uniform excellence in the Provincial Executive Service, and fourteen of these years have been spent

in the Excise Department, where your experience and ability have been invaluable. For the admirable work which you did as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Excise, you were granted the title of Rai Sahib and you have now added to your reputation by the ability which you have displayed during your tenure of the important post of Superintendent of Excise and Salt, Calcutta, in organizing a campaign against the leading smugglers of opium and cocaine and in introducing improved methods of licensing in Calcutta.

**RAI GOPAL CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR,**

As Assistant Serologist to the Government of Bengal for the last seven years, you have worked conscientiously and well, and you have carried out much original work which has been of the greatest value.

**RAI RAJENDRA KUMAR GHOSH BAHADUR,**

Your family has long been prominent in the district in which you live and you have fully maintained its reputation by your generous support of works of public utility, your liberal contributions to war funds and your substantial encouragement of recruiting.

**RAI DEBENDRA NATH GHOSH BAHADUR,**

For your good services in the Department of Statistics you have been given this title, and I congratulate you on the well-earned honour.

RAI KUNJA BIHARI GUPTA BAHADUR,

This is a fitting crown to a life of sound and conscientious work in the Judicial Service, in which your devotion to justice and duty won for you the respect and approbation of all with whom you came in contact.

RAI BHAGABATI CHARAN KUNDU BAHADUR,

You, too, have been an ornament to the service to which you belong, and the value of your work in the Judicial Department is thus recognized at the end of a long and meritorious career.

RAI SHAILENDRA NATH BANARJI BAHADUR,

You have had a most distinguished record of service in the Public Works Department and your careful and devoted attention to problems of drainage and irrigation has been of the greatest value to Government, while at the same time winning for you a position as an authority on all such matters. Your work has always been marked by zeal and energy, and you have carried out your duties with consistent ability.

RAI ASHUTOSH BASU BAHADUR,

You have always been conspicuous for your public services in the town of Howrah and by your work as a Commissioner of the Municipality and Vice-Chairman of the District Board for twenty years, you have earned the gratitude and respect of your fellow-citizens.



**RAJ BAHADURS,**

I congratulate you all most heartily on the titles which have been conferred upon you: you have my best wishes for many years of continued prosperity.

**KHAN SAHIBS AND RAI SAHIBS,**

It has given me great pleasure to present you with the sanads of the titles which have been conferred upon you in recognition of your valuable services.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI KARIM BUX,**

Your long service of thirty-three years in the Telegraph Department has been marked by consistent ability and unfailing devotion to duty. You have a record of which you may well be proud.

**RAI SAHIB ANANDA GOPAL MUKHARJI,**

You have an admirable record of over thirty-one years' service in the Registration Department, and the standard of your work has been uniformly high throughout.

**RAI SAHIB NARENDRA NATH CHATARJI,**

You have rendered more than thirty years' service to Government in the Public Works and Revenue Departments, and your work has been marked by thoroughness and ability: latterly you have been the means of securing substantial contributions to the War Loans.

RAI SAHIB PRIYA LAL SEN,

You have served Government for more than thirty-one years, during the last twenty-three of which you have held the responsible post of Cashier in the Calcutta Custom House. Your work has earned the esteem and approbation of the successive Collectors under whom you have worked.

RAI SAHIB MANMATHA NATH GUPTA,

You have rendered excellent services in the office of the Comptroller of Indian Treasuries and richly deserve the honour which has been conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI KAZI IMDADUL HUQ,

You have deserved well of Government by your work in the Educational Department: you have carried out your duties as Head Master of the Calcutta Training School with marked success for more than fourteen years.

RAI SAHIB BIJAY BIHARI MUKHARJI,

Having been appointed to the Subordinate Civil Service in 1905 you early gained promotion to the Provincial Service and your work in the Settlement Department earned the highest commendation of the Settlement Officers under whom you served.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH DE,

During the nine years that you have held the post of First Chemical Assistant to the Sanitary

Commissioner you have shown yourself an excellent Chemist with a true scientific spirit, and your work on the analysis of water, foods and drugs has been of great value.

**RAI SAHIB RAM DEO CHOKHANI,**

As Secretary of the Marwari Association for the last eight years, you have devoted yourself to the advancement and welfare of your community, notably in the promotion of education amongst them, and you have always taken a great interest in anything tending to the benefit of your fellow-citizens at large.

**RAI SAHIB RAJENDRA NATH GUHA,**

You earned the commendation of the Military authorities by your admirable work in the construction of military lines and other buildings in this Brigade, and I congratulate you on the title which has been bestowed on you.

**RAI SAHIB BEPIN CHANDRA BASU,**

You have completed fifteen years of excellent service in the Postal Department, and the loyal manner in which you have carried out your very arduous and responsible duties has not passed unrecognized.

**KHAN SAHIBS AND RAI SAHIBS,**

I congratulate you on the titles which have been conferred upon you, and I trust that you may long be spared to enjoy them.

# KÄISER-I-HIND (SILVER) MEDAL.

REV. FRANK B. HADOW,

The excellent work which you have done amongst the destitute members of the domiciled community is worthy of all praise. Although silent and unostentatious, it is none the less valuable and the State owes you a great debt of gratitude for all you have done. It has given me great pleasure to present you with this medal, and I heartily congratulate to you.

MR. JOHN WILLIAM ATKINSON,

You have worked as Senior Jailor of the Alipore Central Jail for eleven years and have carried out your duties conscientiously and well. Your work has been characterised throughout by thoroughness, tact and good temper. I congratulate you.

DR. HAROLD EDWARDS FLINT,

For the past six years you have been in charge of the Medical Mission at Ranaghat. By your skill and by your readiness at all times to subordinate your own comfort and wishes to their benefit, you have won the confidence of the people. I congratulate you on the honour you have received. ...

TINDAL KABRI AHMED,

In July 1917, you were Second Tindal on S.S. *Chilka* which was lying in Baruva Roadstead.

when a fire broke out among bundles of coir yarn in one of her holds. In the same hold there was a magazine containing cases of gun-cotton and safety cartridges. The pumps were at once started and three hoses played into the tween hatch. You yourself accompanied the Chief Officer down into the hold and with him tried to remove the explosives. Failing in this, the Chief Officer held open the magazine hatch, while you assisted him and two other officers in playing the hose into the magazine, in spite of the fumes which were coming from it. You continued doing this until the fire was extinguished, and you were thus instrumental in averting a serious explosion.

In recognition of this brave act, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Silver Medal for Gallantry in saving life at sea and he has commanded me to present it to you on his behalf. I have great pleasure now in handing to you the medal, and I congratulate you most heartily on the brave act which has won you this coveted distinction.

***His Excellency's Speech at a Conference of the District Board Representatives in the Legislative Council Chamber, on 4th December 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

First of all let me express the satisfaction which it gives me to meet in Conference, representatives of the District Boards of the Presidency. You are all aware, I think, of the importance which I attach to the work of local self-governing bodies, and of the view which I have often expressed that the time is rapidly approaching when these bodies will be called upon to play an increasingly responsible part in the administration of the Presidency. I hope I shall not be thought guilty of indiscretion if I at once admit that when I first came to Bengal in my present official capacity, I felt some doubts as to the extent to which I might count on the assistance of local self-governing bodies in the carrying out of various schemes for improving the conditions of life in rural areas. Perhaps that was because such personal experience as I had previously gained of the working of such bodies as District Boards had been in parts of India other than Bengal. The general conclusion which I had formed upon the limited data at my disposal, was that the non-official members took little interest in the work of the Board and were content to leave the bulk

of it to the official Chairman. It is true that in the particular district in which this impression was first created in my mind, the conditions were not favourable to sustained work on the part of the non-official members of the Board. One of them had to travel 50 and another 100 miles along unmetalled roads whenever they attended a meeting of the Board, while another unfortunate member had recently been waylaid and robbed while on his way to the scene of his labours. Nevertheless, a perusal of the reports of the working of such bodies in different parts of India seemed to confirm generally the conclusion at which I had arrived; and I naturally made some attempt to ascertain the reason for this apparent apathy. I came to the conclusion that there was a variety of reasons, some of which it was possible for Government to remove, while others were altogether beyond Government control. I am going to touch upon one reason only; but that an important one which it is possible for Government to remove. There is little doubt, I think, that where apathy has been displayed by non-official members of District Boards, it has been due to a considerable extent to the fact that in the District Officer they possessed a Chairman who was able and willing to do the bulk of the work and to shoulder the responsibility. And it is certainly the case that the District Officer owing to the amount of touring which he has to do in the ordinary course of his duties, and to the intimate knowledge which he possesses of all parts

of his district, has been peculiarly well qualified to direct and control the work of the District Board. But this very efficiency and sufficiency on his part has had a tendency, I think, to discourage activity on the part of the non-official element; and on this assumption we invited the Boards in five districts some little time ago to elect their own non-official Chairmen. It is, obviously, too early to form any final judgment upon the effect of this change; but the experiment has, at any rate, been in force sufficiently long to justify me in congratulating the Boards concerned upon the wisdom of their choice in the election of their Chairmen; and the Chairmen themselves upon the conscientious manner in which they have applied themselves to the discharge of their onerous duties. In light of the experience gained, Government have had under their careful consideration the question of the extension of the system to other districts, and have come to the decision that there should be a substantial advance in this direction. We propose, therefore, that from the commencement of the coming financial year, the following Boards should be invited to elect their own Chairmen:—

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| (1) Bankura.  | (8) Malda.       |
| (2) Birbhum.  | (9) Midnapore.   |
| (3) Dacca...  | (10) Mymensingh. |
| (4) Faridpur. | (11) Nadia.      |
| (5) Hooghly.  | (12) Pabna.      |
| (6) Howrah.   | (13) Rajshahi.   |
| (7) Khulna.   | (14) Rangpur.    |
| (15) Tippera. |                  |



It will be seen, therefore, that except in a very few districts where for one reason or another special conditions at present prevail, we are adopting the policy of setting these important local self-governing bodies upon their own legs and removing from them all traces of official tutelage. I have no hesitation in saying that this constitutes the greatest advance in Local Self-Government since the time when District Boards first came into existence under the administration of Lord Ripon.

Experience has shown that a non-official Chairman cannot undertake the same amount of touring as has been customary in the case of an official Chairman; and I suggest that it is worthwhile your considering whether you would not find it of considerable assistance and advantage to create a post analogous to that held by the official known as the "Clerk of the Council," who plays so useful and so important a part in the County Councils of Great Britain. Indeed, in Great Britain the appointment of a Clerk of the Council is required by law, his appointment being made by a body known as the Standing Joint Committee, consisting of an equal number of County Justices and members of the County Council; and his salary, paid by the County Council, being determined by the same body subject to the approval of the Home Secretary. His duties are described in a volume entitled

Local Government of England" by Redlich and Hirst as follows :—

"He is the chief of the staff; he is the channel for all communications between the County Council, private persons, central departments and local authorities. It is his duty to open all letters, etc., addressed to the Council, and to keep both the Council and its committees informed of all that is going on. He has to take care that all reports of committees to the Council are duly printed and sent along with the summonses to every County Councillor. It is also his duty to attend either in person or by his representative all Committee meetings, so that he may be said to have a general knowledge and supervision of the whole course of administration, although upon the administration itself he exerts as a rule but little influence. His main work is as legal adviser, as solicitor, and as head of the county staff."

It is clear, I think, that an officer charged with such duties and responsibilities would require to be a man of higher qualifications than the ordinary ministerial officer, and the salary of such an officer would be an appreciable additional charge upon the district fund. For this reason I put it forward as a matter for the consideration of the District Boards themselves. But having myself been

a member of an English County Council, I can bear personal testimony to the value of such an officer in the sphere of Local Self-Government.

Let me now turn for a moment to that sphere of corporate activity which is second to none in importance in any highly organized society such as that of all civilized nations at the present day—namely, that of the prevention and cure of disease. Disease can be successfully fought only by scientifically organized effort—and scientifically organized effort has hitherto, I regret to say, been conspicuous chiefly by its absence in Bengal. I have not the smallest doubt in my own mind that it is for this reason that our achievements in our fight against disease have not been commensurate with our expenditure, either of money or of energy. Our activities in the sphere of public health have lacked system; the work of the various agencies engaged has lacked co-ordination. That, at any rate, is my reading of the situation; and if I am correct in my reading, it is clear that we shall have radically to re-cast our machinery before we can hope to obtain really big results. At the centre of our organization we require something corresponding to the brain in the human body. This central portion of our organization should be so constituted that it can formulate a public health policy based upon the latest discoveries of sanitary and medical science; direct generally the application of the policy when agreed upon, and inspect and supervise the work of

the local agencies charged with its actual execution. I am far from satisfied that the central part of our organization, as it has existed up to the present time, has been really well fitted to undertake and discharge these most important and responsible functions. Its personnel has been admirable; but neither the duties of its different parts nor their relations to one another have ever been satisfactorily defined. With a view, therefore, to re-casting the central portion of our organization, I have, as you are doubtless aware, appointed a strong Committee to examine and advise upon the matter.

But a central organization, however efficient, is powerless to achieve results alone. It must have agents distributed over the whole Presidency who are competent and willing to give effect to the measures prescribed by it. And these agents must not only be given the responsibility for carrying out such measures, but must be armed with such powers as will enable them to give effect to them. For this purpose legislation is necessary, and we have under our consideration at the present time the draft of a public health bill. I need not take up your time on this occasion with my views as to the different parts which can most suitably be played in the re-organization of our forces for fighting disease by such bodies as the District Boards, Local Boards and Union Committees on the one hand, and the Municipalities on the other. It is sufficient for my purpose to-day that I should

lay stress upon the important part which must necessarily be played by the District Boards. For example, they will obviously be responsible for giving effect to the general sanitary policy within the areas under their control, and they will have to determine the most suitable means of giving application to general principles in accordance with the particular circumstances of their districts. They will also have to exercise general powers of guidance and control over the work of the smaller bodies, such as Local Boards and Union Committees. If they are to be in a position adequately to discharge these important functions, they must clearly be in possession of an expert staff to advise them and to execute their orders. It is for this reason that we are requiring all District Boards to appoint first class Health Officers from the beginning of the next financial year. I am well aware, of course, that up to now there has been no supply of sanitarians with the necessary qualifications; and that being so, we have taken the precaution of creating one. During the past year a body of 72 Indian medical graduates has been undergoing a course of training in the theory and practice of sanitary science under the direction and control of Dr. Bentley; and I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the ready co-operation which I have received in this matter from Colonel Deare, Sir Leonard Rogers, Colonel Leventon, Dr. Elmes and Dr. Luback, without which it would have been impossible for Dr. Bentley to have made arrangements for the

course. The course will lead up to the Diploma of Public Health of the Calcutta University—a qualification which, as I stated last year, we propose to accept as the equivalent of the English diploma which has been the qualification laid down for health officers of the first class up to the present time.

Of course I realize that the entertainment of the superior public health staff, which we are requiring the District Boards to appoint, will involve them in some additional expenditure. And as a temporary measure I am prepared to grant them assistance in the shape of a contribution towards the cost. I say as a temporary measure, because I feel sure that the whole question of public health finance will have to be examined at no very distant date. And among other proposals that of the imposition of a small public health cess is one that will require careful consideration.

There is another matter upon which I would say one or two words. It is now very nearly two years since I invited representatives of certain District Boards to meet me, in order that I might lay before them certain proposals for combating Malaria. I then pointed out that, while Government might be justified in financing small schemes of an experimental nature wholly out of Provincial Revenues, they would not be justified in providing the whole of the funds necessary for carrying out large anti-malaria flood and drainage schemes, the benefits of which would be confined to particular

localities; and I invited the co-operation of the District Boards of Nadia, the 24 Parganas and Jessore in carrying out three such schemes under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act. At the same time I had a large programme of similar schemes prepared, extending over a period of years, it being my intention to provide funds annually in the budget, firstly, for carrying out the smaller schemes at Government expense, and secondly, for assisting District Boards with grants in the case of larger schemes taken up under the Sanitary Drainage Act. In pursuance of this policy we have provided considerable sums annually in the Provincial Budget. I had hoped that greater progress would have been made with the programme of which I have spoken; but I have found myself hampered by the cumbrous nature of the machinery of the Sanitary Drainage Act. I remember concluding my speech of two years ago by saying that after acquainting myself with the ravages of Malaria, and coming to a conclusion as to the means by which it might be fought, I was impatient of delay. And I took the precaution of ordering progress reports of all anti-malarial schemes, including those carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act, to be submitted to me personally once a month. "I have studied these reports regularly once a month ever since with interest always, but often, too, with extreme exasperation; and I have searched round for a remedy for the present delays. I hope I have found one. With the assistance of a Committee which sat last

summer we have drafted a Bill, entitled the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Bill, to take the place of the existing Act. The Bill now awaits sanction to its introduction in the Legislative Council. In the meantime I am unwilling to postpone a beginning on the new anti-malarial schemes which we desire to see undertaken next year; and I am, therefore, making provision in next year's budget in the shape of grants, so that a start may be made.

These schemes are—

- (1) The Anjuna in Nadia.
- (2) The Harihar-Mukteswar in Jessore.
- (3) The Dhunia in Midnapore.
- (4) The Arapanch in the 24-Parganas.
- (5) The Baitgachi Gaon in the 24-Parganas.
- (6) The Rangkini Doho in Burdwan.

I hope that in due course the District Boards concerned will take up these projects under the provisions of the new Act.

Now I must not occupy more of your time. There are a great many subjects of interest and importance down upon the agenda paper for discussion. In addition to the subjects which are included in the agenda paper, are others which you will find on a supplementary list. If time permits, you may possibly wish to discuss these also; or you may decide that they are of less urgency or importance, and may be postponed to some subsequent occasion. Then again, a certain number



of subjects were suggested for discussion which have already been disposed of, or which for various reasons, I considered, might more conveniently be dealt with otherwise than by formal discussion at their present stage. These have been included in a third list, and a short note giving reasons for their exclusion from the agenda paper has been appended to each.

This is the first occasion, so far as I know, on which a conference of this kind has been held. I feel sure that it will prove useful; and I offer you my best wishes for an interesting and a fruitful discussion.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Salon held in  
Government House, Calcutta, on 4th December  
1919.***

This is a gathering of a somewhat unusual character, and you will, perhaps, expect me to say a few words in explanation, both of the reasons for my having invited you to Government House this evening, and of the object which this meeting is designed to accomplish. This latter can be stated in a sentence. It is the formation in Calcutta of a centre of Indian Culture. I am a warm sympathizer with the objects of the Indian Society of Oriental Art, namely, "the cultivation by its members, and the promotion amongst the public, of a knowledge of all branches of ancient and modern oriental art," and I agree that the means by which the Society seeks to achieve its objects are admirable. Let me quote from the prospectus of the Society itself:—the means therein stated are, "the collection by its members of objects of such art and the exhibition of such collections to the Society; the reading of papers; holding of discussions; the purchase of books and journals relating to art; the publication of a journal; the encouragement and assistance of Indian artists, art students and workers in artistic industries; . . . the holding of public exhibitions of works of modern Indian Art; and the award of prizes and diplomas at such exhibitions."

Nothing could be better. But when we come to consider the performance of the Society during the 12 years of its existence, we cannot but admit that it has fallen somewhat short of the expectations which it held out. It has certainly performed a most useful service in so far as it has supported and encouraged the renaissance in Indian painting which has taken place in recent years in Bengal; but it has been at a disadvantage, in that it has possessed no building where the work of the studio might be carried on, and where its members might meet and lectures and discussions take place. I shall have more to say on this aspect of the question before I sit down. But I would digress for a few minutes in order to state quite frankly the process of reasoning which has led me to take so deep a personal interest in the future of the Society.

Western civilization struck India with full force at a time when her own national vitality was at a low ebb. It met, therefore, with little resistance. Indeed, in many quarters it met with a wholly indiscriminating welcome. True there were men of intellect and character—men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen and others—who welcomed it for what they perceived was of intrinsic value in it and who doubtless believed that a satisfactory synthesis might be found between the thought and culture of East and West. But such men were the exception. Those who opened their arms indiscriminately to every thing

Western, because of its novelty, or because it was the smart thing to do, were the rule. And it became the habit with such men to despise and cry down the civilization of their own country. The more ardent their admiration for every thing Western, the more vehement became their denunciation of every thing Indian. And so the Westernization of large numbers of the educated classes and with it their denationalization went on apace. But the soul of India was not dead. For a time no doubt it slept, but it slept uneasily, and as consciousness flowed slowly back into its being, it awoke troubled and sore afraid—afraid, lest it had lost its earthly tenement and must wander henceforth in the wilderness of forgotten and forsaken things. That, I think, is why the inevitable reaction against the Westernization of India has found expression every now and then in such violent forms. There has been fear behind these violent explosions—fear that before the triumphant aggressiveness of Western civilization, all that was essentially and distinctively Indian was doomed to perish and utterly to disappear. Circumstances necessarily made it appear that the British were consciously striving for such an end. Of course, they were doing nothing of the sort. Whatever else they are, the British people are not Machiavelian. They have never been famous for finesse. It might, indeed, have seemed that the establishment of educational institutions of a rigidly Western type was in itself sufficient proof of a subtle

determination to undermine the culture of India and substitute Western culture in its place. As a matter of fact, it was not with any such *arrière-pensée* that the decision of Lord William Bentinck's Government was arrived at: the decision was the result not of subtlety—far from it—but of the inexorably practical character of the British people. They wanted Indians who were as nearly as possible the equivalent of the English clerk—and with commendable commonsense from their own point of view they set about creating what they wanted. It is true that the seeds of the Western system of education, when once planted, grew rapidly into an amazing tree, so that the purpose with which it was originally planted was forgotten. But this remarkable development was not the result of deliberate purpose; it was the result of a number of fortuitous circumstances, such as the extraordinary receptivity of the Indian people, and the economic pressure which drove large numbers to acquire the type of education which was the one avenue of approach to Government and other service.

So much by way of generalization. Now let me descend to particulars. The same clash of ideals, which has been the cause of so much anxiety to Government in certain directions, is to be found operating in the sphere of art. Here may be traced the same sequence of events which I have already sketched in general terms. We have the practical cessation of Indian artistic activity at the time of

low national vitality when the impact of Western civilization carried everything before it. Then we have the gradual awakening of the sleeping Indian spirit—the feeling of unrest which first pondered upon, and then challenged the teaching given in the Schools of Art established by Western agency on Western lines. How strong were the fetters of the Western tradition is shown by the paintings of the late Raja Ravi Varma who sought to give expression to Indian ideals, but could not free himself of the European style which he had imbibed. Then came the heralds of a real renaissance when Messrs. Abanindra and Goganendra Nath Tagore inspired by an instinct, which insisted upon asserting itself, broke away from the Western tradition and gave birth to the modern School of Indian painting.

This, then, brings me to the point of my digression. I take this deep personal interest in the School of Bengali painting, because apart from the particular merits of the painting itself, I see in it a perfectly legitimate field where that unrest of spirit from which India has been and still is suffering, may leaven the soil with wholly commendable results. I have diagnosed the root cause of Indian unrest as a clash of ideals. I have no doubt in my own mind as to the correctness of my diagnosis. And I have the most profound sympathy with the cause—with the struggle, that is to say, of the Indian ideal against extinction. But while I have sympathised with the cause of

unrest, I have often been obliged sternly to condemn many of its more regrettable manifestations, thus adding to the impression that all forms of Indian self-assertion are repugnant to an Englishman. Such a belief is like a noxious weed which poisons the atmosphere against all true understanding between the two races; and that is why I so gladly seize this opportunity of uprooting it and casting it upon the fire. Throughout the whole wide sphere of art I am in profound sympathy with the spirit of Indian unrest. As a result of it I look forward to seeing the peculiar genius of the Indian people finding renewed expression in an artistic language of its own. It will not be a language easily understood by the stranger—that is of the essence of the matter. But it will be a language which will convey to India herself naturally, and with no need of interpretation, the message which the Indian artist has to deliver. If this new movement in art remains true to the spirit of the soil from which it has sprung—as I am sure it will—we shall see it leaving on one side the realism which is so marked a feature of the art of Europe and clinging to the idealism which has coloured so deeply the whole intellectual life of the Indian people. No one who has made any attempt to understand the motif and the message of the Indian worker in the plastic and pictorial arts, can fail to see in the many-headed and many-armed figures of her pantheon, in the dancing Natarajas of the south,

or in the supremely satisfying conventional image of Gautama Buddha, the same golden idealism which runs through the splendid outpourings of her philosophic literature. How closely the threads of this idealism are woven into the texture of her intellectual being becomes apparent when we seek its origin. For it was first drawn, surely, from their long and intimate communing with nature by the forest-dwelling ancestors of the race, much as some sweettoned melody is drawn by a musician from some perfect instrument which he has learned to master. And it has since like the grand diapason of some splendid harmony come echoing in ever-swelling volume of sound down the long and tortuous corridors of time.

It would be easy to dwell at length upon the peculiar characteristics of the different branches of Indian art. But to do so would be to travel beyond the purpose of my present remarks. Rather would I return for a moment in concluding, to the object which I began by saying I hoped to see achieved. That object is, as I have stated, the establishment in Calcutta, under the auspices of the Indian Society of Oriental Art, of a centre of Indian Culture. Accommodation is necessary: that accommodation has been found, and I welcome all members of the Society to their new home at Samavaya Mansions in Corporation Street. The Society will shortly, I hope, be in a position to issue a regular journal which will treat of the culture of India, ancient and modern, and which will form a valuable link between the scattered members of the Society and its centre. The Society has been reconstituted on a more stable basis.



and the conditions of membership for persons joining from now onwards will be found set forth in the papers which have been handed to you. The significance or otherwise of a movement of this kind is demonstrated by the extent of the public support which it receives. If it is a national movement of moment, as I believe it is, it will very soon become self-supporting. But I recognize the fact that, until its existence has become more widely known, it is in need of encouragement and support. That support the Government of Bengal are prepared to give to it. We have already provided a capital grant with a view to assisting the Society with certain necessary capital outlay; and we are prepared to render assistance in the matter of current expenditure during the coming financial year. But I would lay stress upon the fact that, with the provision of these grants, the part played by Government comes to an end. The acceptance of the grants by the Society involves neither official inspection, interference nor control. The school of painting is in no sense a Government School of Art. It is a national movement—the fair flower of an indigenous growth which excites the interest and sympathy of Government, but which would most assuredly wither into decay, were we to endeavour to bring it under Government control. All that we are doing is to render it such assistance as will enable it to blossom. When it has succeeded in doing that, I look to see it grow into a vast tree with spreading branches, watered by the affection, the encouragement and the support of its own people.

***His Excellency's Speech at, the opening of the  
Nirmalendu, Hall of Learning in the St. Paul's  
Cathedral Mission College, Calcutta, on 9th  
December 1919.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am always glad to take part in Collegiate functions and in particular to show my appreciation of private benefactions to the cause of education; for I am sure that there are few ways in which a man can render more valuable service to his country at the present time than by contributing towards the provision of a sound education for the generation of young men now growing up in Bengal.

The building which I have just opened, is erected as a memorial by a bereaved father to a much-loved son, and it was a happy thought on the part of the donor to give to the memorial a form which will prove of perennial value to successive generations of young men seeking their training for the more serious things of life at the College.

St. Paul's College is one of the outstanding educational institutions of the Presidency. It owes its special character to the fact that its management have kept steadily before them certain very definite ideals. Those ideals were clearly stated by its late Principal, Mr. Holland, a man of wide sympathies and of keen insight and understanding.

in the course of his report in 1917. Not only those who are interested in the College, but the far wider public, which has the future of Bengal anxiously at heart, might with advantage study the report itself. They would find there that the special success which the College has undoubtedly achieved, as an educational institution in the true sense of the word, in contrast, for example, to a mere cramming establishment, has been due in the main to its residential character, to a strict limitation of numbers, to its tutorial system, to its attention to the needs of the body as well as of the mind, and finally to its religious atmosphere which has given definite proof of its influence on character in the shape of the marked taste for social service which its students have developed. Few things struck me more than this when I first visited the College and learned for myself what the students were doing to serve their less fortunate fellow-beings in the adjacent *busties*. And I have little doubt that all who have any personal knowledge of the College—its aims, its methods, and its actual performances, would endorse the tribute paid to it by the Members of the University Commission when they wrote that it was a model of what a college could be and could do for its students on that side of University life which is at present too much neglected in Bengal.

But with all these advantages the Principal confessed last year to one serious defect, namely, the want of a library sufficiently large to meet

adequately the requirements of a tutorial College. That want is now, through the liberality of Mr. Ghose, in process of being removed. By the provision of the building which I have just had the pleasure of opening Mr. Ghose has added to the debt which the student community of Bengal already owes him, and has done much to remove the one defect to which the College has pleaded guilty. One thing remains to be done to complete the memorial, namely, to provide the building with the furnishings of an up-to-date library. Towards this the University has, I believe, allotted a sum of Rs. 5,400. It is not an easy matter at the present time to squeeze money out of the revenue at the disposal of the Government of Bengal. But I am anxious to mark my appreciation of Mr. Ghose's generous and public-spirited action, and I am able to promise on behalf of Government a contribution of Rs. 4,600, which will bring the amount at the disposal of the College up to Rs. 10,000.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity of offering your new Principal, Mr. Dewick, my hearty good wishes for success in the work which he has come out to undertake. It is a good omen and should be a source of encouragement to him that this proof of a Bengali Christian gentleman's enthusiasm for learning should have been given to him as he stands upon the very threshold of his new career.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution  
in the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, on 9th  
December 1919.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The hour is late and I have no intention of detaining you by anything in the nature of a long speech. But I could not think of leaving without first congratulating Father Fallon upon the success of the past year's work of the School and College. Credit for the results achieved is no doubt due in large measure to the teaching ability and the real enthusiasm of the teaching staff. But credit is due also to the industry and keenness of the students. Mr. Marley has given us practical proof of his abilities this evening, and after seeing his performance on the stage, I am not in the least surprised to find that he has carried off the prize in the inter-collegiate competition in recitation. We have been provided with another proof of success by Henry Keystone who has won the Oversea's Scholarship; and we all offer him our good wishes in his future studies in England.

Success in athletics has been as marked as in other directions; and you can boast of the truly remarkable record of carrying off during the year now coming to an end every inter-school trophy in cricket, football, hockey and athletics.

The pupils at School and College alike have shown a kindly spirit towards distress, and I feel

that I am almost under a personal debt of gratitude to them for the contributions which they have made voluntarily towards the relief of distress in Eastern Bengal.

There is one other word I want to say before I go. I want to add my congratulations to those which are pouring in upon Father Francotte. His is, indeed, a splendid record and one of which he may well be proud—fifty years in India and forty-four years in Bengal without a break. May he still be spared many years to carry on his valuable work.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the  
Peace Celebration Exhibition, on 13th Decem-  
ber 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

It was a happy idea on the part of the Committee which was instructed to devise measures for suitably celebrating the restoration of Peace to organize an Exhibition at which should be displayed examples of the Industry, the Commerce and the Arts, which are essentially the products of times of peace. You may probably call to mind the fact that the first great International Exhibition, which was held in London in 1851, and which incidentally bequeathed to that city the remarkable centre of recreation known as the Crystal Palace, was promoted with the special intention of lessening the chances of war and furthering the prospects of peace. The Committee have also displayed a shrewd knowledge of human nature, for exhibitions, have always made a powerful appeal to the human mind. We learn from the book of Esther how King Ahasuerus showed in the third year of of his reign "The riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of His Excellent Majesty many days, even a hundred and four score days." We are not quite so ambitious as that. The Committee do not intend to exhibit their wares for a hundred and four score days; but they have laid their plans, if on a less ambitious scale, at any rate with no less whole-heartedness with a view to providing recreation for every one and at the same

time a stimulus to the industry, the commerce, the arts and the crafts of the days of peace. They are not without hope, too, that it will be said of the exhibitors at this exhibition, as it was said of those at a famous exhibition held in France more than 100 years ago, that amongst those who had obtained the certificates of the Exhibition "There is not an artist or inventor who, once obtaining thus a public recognition of his ability, has not found his reputation and his business largely increased."

In declaring this exhibition open, I extend my best thanks to the Committee for the splendid arrangements which they have made, and my best wishes to the exhibitors for future success and to the public for much enjoyable and instructive recreation.



***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of Annual  
Exhibition of the Indian Society of Oriental  
Art, on 29th December 1919.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have quite recently had an opportunity of explaining my attitude towards the Indian Society of Oriental Art.~ I have given my reasons for recommending the prominent men of Bengal to give it their most hearty support. I have made it quite clear that I attach the greatest importance to this new movement as being a genuine national movement of a most admirable character; and it is only necessary for me this morning to express once more my hope that this school of painting will receive the support and patronage of all those persons in Bengal who are genuinely attached to their own country and wish to see it prosper in all directions. These premises in which the Exhibition is held this year are the premises of the Society and I congratulate the Society on having at last secured a definite home which will form a centre for their future activities. I hope that it will be thoroughly understood that this hall has not merely been engaged for the purpose of exhibiting the pictures, though that is certainly one of the reasons for which the hall has been engaged. But I hope it will become something more than a mere place of exhibition. I hope it will become a centre

in which all those who are interested in this movement and in the culture of India generally, will find a home where they may come and discuss matters of interest,—where they may come and hear lectures delivered upon subjects of interest to themselves,—and where they may form, as it were, a nucleus round which may centre the future activities of all who are interested in the culture and civilisation of their country. The Society will shortly be in a position to publish the first number of the new journal which is to be devoted to its activities and will deal with Indian art and culture generally. I hope that the journal will provide matters of interest, not only to the members of the Society themselves, but to a very much wider public, and that all those who are interested in the success of the Society will take such opportunities, as may occur to them, of making known the existence of the journal to others. Now it only remains for me formally to declare this Exhibition open, and to express the hope that those who come to see it will find in it the same steady advancement which has been observed by critics in every one, I believe, of the ten exhibitions which have so far preceded it. I now declare this Exhibition to be open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University  
Convocation, on 2nd January 1929.***

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My first words must be words of congratulation and of good wishes to all those who have received their degrees at your hands, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, this afternoon. The future which lies before them possesses all the fascination of the unknown. In the evolution of nations we observe a process similar to that of the systole and diastole of the human heart, periods of contraction alternating with periods of expansion. That one of the periods of expansion has set in must be apparent to all. A wider and more varied life than was open to their predecessors awaits the students of to-day. And with wider opportunities come greater responsibilities. Had I come here to-day to deliver a sermon, it is upon that text that I should preach. But since I have not come here to stand in the pulpit—at least I hope that in what I am about to say you will not regard me as doing so—I content myself with wishing them well. They have my sincere good wishes, one and all for their future.

I now pass on to other matters; and it is obviously appropriate to the occasion that I should devote my remarks to that particular aspect of the national evolution with which the

'educationalists of the Presidency' are most closely concerned.

Since Convocation last met there has been issued the Report of the University Commission—a Report which every one, whether he agrees or disagrees with the recommendations made, will recognize as an outstanding landmark in the history of higher education in Bengal and as an event which is destined to affect profoundly the whole future, not merely of the educational institutions themselves, but, what is of far greater importance, of the people of this land. The proposals put forward in the Report will excite much discussion and possibly some controversy, and amid the dust and din aroused there is some danger, lest the really vital and essential object which the Commission have in view may be lost sight of. We shall all find ourselves considering, discussing, supporting or opposing the various proposals made by the Commission for the re-designing and re-construction of the actual structure of the temple of learning; and engrossed as we shall be in the consideration of this task—the importance of which I do not for a moment underestimate—we shall have to beware, lest we lose sight of the really important matter, namely, the precise nature of the divinity for whose habitation the temple is being built. The report of the Commission itself deals of necessity so fully and in such wealth of detail with the measures of re-organization which it advocates that a casual perusal of it

might leave the reader under the impression that even its authors had their attention rivetted more closely upon the temple which they wished to see built than upon the being that was to occupy it. Nevertheless, any such conclusion would be a grave injustice to the Commission, as a careful study of the Report will show. For example, it is pointed out therein that the clear intention of the statesmen, who were concerned with the problem of education in British India in the middle of the nineteenth century, was to devise a system which would work out in India "a harmonious combination of Eastern and Western civilization." And scattered here and there throughout the pages of the Report are to be found statements, which leave no room for doubt, that the Commissioners themselves are imbued with the vital importance of shaping the University system in Bengal towards that goal. They quote with approval the assertion of the late Professor Trivedi that India to-day "is striving to bring forth a type of Indian humanity which broadly and securely based upon the foundations of its own special culture, will assert itself in the presence of the manhood of the world"; and after pointing out that the University training which is provided for the students to-day, is "almost wholly unrelated to the real thoughts and aspirations of their minds", they go on to state categorically that "the future of India depends upon finding a civilization which will be a happy union of the Hindu, Islamic and European

-civilization!" Here we have stated in no ambiguous terms, the vital and essential problem which awaits solution at the hands of the intellectual leaders of the people. A system of education which is calculated merely to make up the Indian student an imitation European, is fundamentally unsound. It can only end in creating an educated class incapable of drawing inspiration from its own environment, and doomed therefore like a plant uprooted from its natural surroundings and transplanted to a foreign soil to fade and wither into decay. No one will deny for one moment the immense service which Western science and learning have rendered and can still render to India. But assimilation is one thing and imitation is another; and the civilization of the West can only be of true value to India to the extent to which she can assimilate it without discarding what is fundamental in her own civilization and drying up the roots of her own peculiar genius. Upon the urgent necessity of striving after a real synthesis between the thought, the culture, the civilization of East and West, I have consistently laid stress; and I am convinced that unless we keep this supreme necessity constantly before our eyes, all our efforts at reconstruction must be lost in the barren wastes of the artificial and the unreal, just as the waters of some of the rivers of the Asian Continent dry up and perish in the vast expanses of sterile desert through which they are doomed to wend their way. It is, because I believe that it is to this end that the University Commission have

framed their recommendations, that I invite for them the support of all who are concerned for the future of Bengal.

Of course a great scheme of re-organization cannot be carried through without dislocation and inconvenience; yet those who have served the existing University and by their devoted labours have succeeded in effecting so much under a system which admittedly suffers from such grave defects, will surely be ready, in spite of all inconveniences, to work whole-heartedly for the removal of existing weaknesses, the improvement where necessary of the present structure, and the construction of such additions to it as may be required. I hope that the report will not be regarded as the verdict of a jury sitting in judgment upon those who have carried on the work of the University up to the present time. Any such view of it would not only be extremely unfair to its authors, but would necessarily militate against its recommendations being considered upon their merits. The Commission have not been out to criticise or to destroy. Their purpose has been to examine in the light of up-to-date experience elsewhere, the system of University education in this country, and to appraise its results. Such condemnation, as the Report contains, is condemnation of a system and not of those who have worked under it. This is so obvious to anyone who has studied the Report that I should not have thought of alluding to it, had it not been for the fact that I have observed a tendency on the part of some to see in the Commission

a body of fault-finders and iconoclasts bent upon sweeping away a cherished institution. Let us all disabuse our minds of any such idea.

To my mind one of the most striking features of the Report is the fact that the recommendations made are not so much the recommendations of the Commissioners themselves, as the recommendations of the educationists of this country. They have been adopted rather than originated by the Commission; and may fairly be said, therefore, to follow the trend of enlightened opinion in Bengal. Take, for example, the proposal to treat the first two years of the present University course as the conclusion of the school rather than the beginning of the University stage. I doubt whether there is an experienced teacher in Bengal who will not assert that by far the greater number of students who come up from the high schools, are insufficiently equipped to benefit fully by University teaching. If a defective knowledge of English stands in the way of their following lectures with understanding, how can they be expected to assimilate the knowledge which the lecturer seeks to impart? And if this be admitted, it is obvious that the stage in the education of a student at which a University system of training now begins, must be postponed, and the methods of school teaching be prolonged. The Commission point out the obvious way of remedying the present evil, namely, by treating the first two years of the present University course as the completion of the Higher



School stage. The present Intermediate Examination would thus become the termination of school course and the beginning of the students' University career. Besides presenting young men better equipped in every way for undergoing a proper University training, this reform would have the additional advantage of providing the young man, who did not aspire to a University career, with a self-contained course at the end of which he would be in a position to branch off into other walks of life for which specialised, though not necessarily University, forms of training, are required. It is notorious that large numbers of students do not proceed beyond the Intermediate stage even now, thus showing that there is a definite demand for a self-contained course of liberal education of a higher school type, corresponding to that provided by the Public Schools of Great Britain.

I have heard it said that there are persons who, while accepting generally the views of the Commission on this question, ask why the control of the proposed Intermediate Colleges should be taken from the University and handed over to a Board. The answer to that question is surely a very obvious one. The work of Intermediate Colleges will no longer be University work; it will be Higher School work. And I know of no University in the world which burdens itself with the control of school work as distinct from the work which lies legitimately within the University sphere. If the

recommendation had been that the Intermediate Colleges should be handed over to a Government Department, I could have understood the objection. But the recommendation is of an entirely different nature, namely, that a Board, largely non-official in its personnel, should be established to exercise general control over the Higher School training, just as the University will direct and control the whole of that part of the educational system which lies within the University sphere.

There is one other idea which seems to me to stand out prominently in the pages of the Report, namely, that of making of the Calcutta University a real teaching institution. After all, that is merely giving extended application to the principle which was given sanction in theory by the Act of 1904, and was given effect to by the University itself when it took upon itself the responsibility for Post-graduate teaching two years ago. I was myself a convinced supporter of the cause so powerfully championed by the Hon'ble Sir Ashutosh Mukharji at that time, and in my capacity as Rector, I gave to it all the support which was within my power. I did so because it seemed to me to be essential to any sound system of education that those who were charged with the teaching should have a much greater degree of control over the courses of teaching than was possible under the system of affiliated colleges, where the staff of each college was obliged to cover the whole of the ground

of examinations held by the University, in the discharge of its functions as an Examining Board. But the University is handicapped by having to confine its teaching to Post-graduate students. Let me illustrate what I mean. So long as the University is thus restricted, a teacher of eminence like Sir P. C. Roy has no chance of bringing his influence to bear upon any but mature students who have already obtained their degrees. That constitutes a loss both to Sir P. C. Roy himself and to large numbers of young scientists who might benefit immeasurably from his ability if the system permitted him the wider scope which it is the object of the recommendations of the University Commission to give.

It would be easy to expatiate at great length upon this aspect of the recommendations of the Commission alone; but to do so would be to travel beyond the purpose of my present address which has been to invite attention to the goal at which the Report of the Commission aims, rather than to discuss in any detail the nature of the different paths marked out in it as the best avenues of approach. I hope that these latter will be examined on their merits. The time is ripe for a concerted effort on the part of Government and the public to lift the educational chariot out of the ruts of past routine. A sense of the immensely important part which a University should play in the life of a people is in the air. Less than a year ago I had the satisfaction of unveiling two statues erected

to mark the public-spirited generosity of two munificent patrons of the University—the late Sir Tarak Nath Palit and Sir Rash Behari Ghosh. To-day I am in the happy position of being able publicly to acknowledge a further magnificent gift to the university by Sir Rash Behari Ghosh. By his present gift of Rs. 11,43,000 he is enabling the University to undertake new and most important work in the domain of technology, and he is rendering a service to his country which excites universal admiration and which, I hope, will challenge emulation. As Rector of the University I add to my personal admiration, my official thanks.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of  
opening the Children's Playground in Calcutta,  
on 12th January 1920.***

**DR. KENNEDY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

It gives me great pleasure to have been afforded this opportunity of associating myself with this most excellent venture. Dr. Kennedy expressed the hope that the sympathy which I expressed for the scheme when it was first propounded, would be continued. I hope that the fact that I am here this afternoon to perform the opening ceremony will of itself afford proof that my heartiest sympathy is still with the scheme. The scheme, as you probably know, originated among Freemasons and to one Lodge in particular, I think, we are indebted for it, namely, Lodge Yeatman Briggs, and I should like to express my appreciation of the way in which the Worshipful Master and the Brethren of that Lodge have initiated and carried through this project. I should like also to express my great admiration at the enthusiasm and persistence with which Dr. Kennedy has brought this scheme before the notice of the public. I would like to congratulate the public upon the ready response which they have made to his appeal. Some Rs. 60,000, as he told us, have already been subscribed to the project. Dr. Kennedy, a sanguine man, hopes that he will receive a further lakh in order that the scheme may be sufficiently

endowed. I hope that Dr. Kennedy will be successful, but at any rate we may congratulate him and all concerned on the excellent start the scheme has made and I have no hesitation whatever in saying that it must prove an inestimable boon not only to the children who will actually be brought to the playground but to a large number of parents who are thus being given an opportunity of providing their children with healthy recreation at somebody else's expense. Now I shall have much pleasure in performing the opening ceremony by hoisting the Union Jack.

***His Excellency's Speech | at the Legislative  
Council Meeting, on 3rd February 1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

Since this Council last met the Reform Bill has become the Reform Act and we are, therefore, now started upon a road involving constitutional changes of great magnitude. Under these circumstances it will be clear to everybody that between the actual passage of the Bill into law which has recently taken place and the putting into operation of its provisions, a considerable period must elapse during which much spade work has to be done. For reasons which will be apparent before I sit down, I propose to mention quite briefly some of the chief matters which will have to be considered, and in respect of which decisions will have to be come to before the provisions of the Reform Act can actually be put into operation. These questions may roughly be said to fall under four main heads. In the first place, there is the constitution of three different chambers—the Provincial Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State—and it will devolve upon us to frame a franchise which will be applicable to each of these three bodies. Under the second head comes the machinery which we shall have to create for carrying out the election to these bodies. Then under head three comes the rearrangement of the machinery of Government which will be necessary

as the result of the introduction of the system which has come to be known as diarchy under which the functions of Government will be allocated to and discharged by two separate bodies. Lastly, we shall have to consider the preparation of Rules under the Act for giving effect to the decisions which are arrived at with regard to the main questions to which I have already referred, and also Rules to regulate the procedure of the new Councils.

The Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament have made certain recommendations in their Report which will have the effect of modifying the constitution of the Provincial Legislative Council which was proposed by the Franchise Committee. For example, they have instructed us to arrange for an increase in rural representation as compared with urban representation. They have also instructed us to endeavour to arrange for the representation of urban, wage-earning classes and they have suggested that, in some Provinces at any rate, the question of giving greater representation to those classes which are generally known as the depressed classes, should be undertaken and one or two other minor readjustments made which may affect, possibly, the representation in the Council of landlords and the European community. All these questions will immediately come under the consideration of Government and until decisions have been arrived at on these particular points, the constitution of



the Provincial Legislative Council cannot be described as final. With regard to the Legislative Council and the Council of State, the Government of India have already made provisional allotments of elective seats in each of these bodies to the various provinces and they have invited an expression of opinion on the suitability of their proposals.

Then with regard to the question of the franchise. The question of the franchise to these two bodies, namely, the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, is one which will require very careful consideration, and, indeed, is one of no small difficulty. The Joint Committee have issued an instruction that representation to these two bodies is to be obtained by direct election. The problem, therefore, which we have to face is that of devising a franchise for the electors to each of these two Chambers which will furnish an electorate appropriate both in status and in numbers. Then with regard to our Legislative Council in Bengal, the preparation of an electoral roll will be an undertaking of great magnitude. The cess qualification which will give the franchise to the cultivating class goes outside the scope of any of our up-to-date official records and we shall have to invite the co-operation of village officials in drawing up our election rolls. The printing of the rolls themselves will present a problem which is by no means an easy one, and we shall have to try and find a convenient procedure for dealing with objections and for the correction of electoral rolls before they are

finally published. A Bill to prevent corrupt practices at the elections and to provide for the disposal of electoral petitions, will also have to be considered.

The machinery itself for carrying out these elections will also call for careful consideration. That, I think, will be obvious to everybody. When I remind you that the number of voters at elections which have been held up to the present time under the existing system have not aggregated more than twelve thousand, whereas we anticipate that the number of electors all told with whom we shall have to deal when the Reform Scheme comes into operation, will be approximately a million and-a-half. This large number of electors together with the fact that elections to the three separate Chambers will have to take place almost simultaneously, will obviously impose a very severe strain upon the officials who are responsible for carrying the elections through. It will necessitate the organization of all our resources in this respect as well as the simplification and perfection as far as possible of what may be described as the mechanical means of carrying the elections through. We shall have to give much consideration to the question of the advisability of trying to introduce a system of election by ballot in preference to the ordinary open recording of votes. We shall also have to consider the difficulties which must necessarily arise when we have a large electorate consisting to a great extent of illiterate peasants and the difficulties

arising out of the identification of voters and the prevention of impersonation; and we shall have to consider also the question of the number of polling stations and of the number of recording officers required to carry the elections through in as short a time as possible."

Then, of course, there are a number of Rules which will have to be drafted to deal with many questions besides those to which I have referred. The Reforms Act, as you are no doubt aware, leaves the completion of some of its main provisions to Rules and Regulations, and all these Rules and Regulations will have to be carefully considered and decisions arrived at with regard to them before it is possible to hold a general election. The Government have not allowed the grass to grow under their feet. They have already taken these questions in hand. We have deputed a special officer to devote his whole time and attention to assisting us in solving these many problems. But we fully realize that all these questions are matters which are necessarily of considerable interest to the general public and in particular to that part of the public which at the present time plays a part in public life; and we are anxious, therefore, to consult, so far as that is possible, representatives of the public before coming to final decisions upon these questions.

It is quite obvious, I think, that if the provisions of the Reforms Act are to be brought into operation within any reasonable period, it would

be quite impossible for us to adopt the ordinary procedure of circulating this vast number of detailed questions to individuals and public bodies for their opinion. We all know how long it takes to obtain the considered opinion of public bodies on any matter and were we to endeavour to obtain the advice of the public in that way, I am afraid that the first general election under the Reforms Act would be in some danger of being postponed to the Greek Kalends.

But, I think, there is another way in which we may be able to obtain the assistance of the public and that is through their representatives in this chamber and what I suggest is this, that the non-official members of this Council should nominate from among themselves a small body who would be prepared to give us advice upon all these questions as we submit them to them. Such a Committee would have to be more or less in perpetual session, that is to say, they would have to be easily accessible to us and would have to be in a position to consider the questions we submit to them with as little delay as possible. If this suggestion meets with the approval of the Council, I would suggest that at the conclusion of to-day's proceedings, the non-official members should proceed to create such a body. They will, no doubt, desire that all the main interests represented in this Council should find representation on such a Committee. At the same time I would suggest that subject to that important consideration the

Committee should not be larger than necessary. The questions which the Committee will have to consider will be numerous and in some cases will be surrounded by matters of detail, and the smaller and more business like the Committee, therefore, the greater chance will they have of assisting Government without undue delay. On the assumption that you will be prepared to consider this proposal, I intend to ask Sir Henry Wheeler to take the chair at the conclusion of our proceedings to-day, when you can informally discuss my suggestion and, in the event of its meeting with your approval, proceed to elect such a Committee as I have proposed.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta Trades Association Dinner, on 3rd February 1920.***

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have never been able to understand how it came about that the English people—an eminently practical people, on the whole—a sober people and certainly a hospitable people—came to adopt that practice which requires of host and guest alike at their public banquets that they should court the pangs of indigestion which result from consuming their repast in that atmosphere of gloomy apprehension which is inevitably induced by the knowledge that the pleasures of the table have got to be succeeded by the labour of making a speech. It is recorded of one of the greatest Englishmen—at least I suppose in these days of women's rights I may say Englishmen—namely, Queen Elizabeth, that she was in the habit of addressing those who made speeches in these words, “cut it shorter and prose it less, speeches are things which we chiefly bless once we have got them over.” I believe that is the attitude of nine Englishmen out of ten. I am quite sure that it is the attitude of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler and.

the Hon'ble Mr. Phelps, who in company with myself have already listened to six solid hours of speeches during the present twenty-four. Why then do the English not follow the more obvious procedure of having their speeches first and their dinner afterwards? It might be indeed that such a practice would result in the speeches being duller. On the other hand, I feel quite certain that it would result in the speeches being shorter, because if there is one thing which an Englishman cannot stand, it is to be kept waiting for his dinner. Moreover, such a practice would accord with the procedure customary among an admirable body of men known as Masons,—a practice which is enjoined by the precept “after labour refreshment” and being a good Mason myself, as I hope I am, I naturally support the precepts of that body. Moreover, I know from bitter experience that one can never tell after refreshment what sort of offspring one's labour will bring forth. However be the reasons what they may, the practice is to have the speeches after dinner and not before, and since one must bow to this immemorial custom, there is no speech which I could make with greater pleasure than the speech which I am about to deliver in proposing the health of the “Trades Association of Calcutta.”

I have always been an ardent advocate of the adoption by mankind, in all its activities and in all its relationships, of the principle of co-operation and you can understand, therefore, that it was with the greatest interest that I examined the record of your Association, based, as it necessarily is, upon the great principle of co-operation. In particular, I read with interest a report published by a Committee of the Association some twenty years, I think, after it was first formed, from which I learnt that the Trades Association of Calcutta is the oldest of all the public bodies in this city. I was immensely interested also to observe that the firms who were prominent in the foundation of this Association in the year 1830, are largely represented in Calcutta at the present day. Such firms, for example, as Dykes & Co., Hamilton & Co., Jessop & Co., Mackintosh Burn & Co., Steuart & Co. whose admirable representative is your Master this evening, Thacker, Spink & Co., Mackenzie, Lyall & Co., Scott Thomson & Co., were all prominent among the firms engaged in the original establishment of your Association. While the Editor of the *Harkara*—the predecessor of the *Indian Daily News*—was elected as its President. Among the chief objects with which the Association was



founded, was inter-communication among the trading houses themselves, with a view to co-operation in all matters which affected their interests, and I was interested to observe that with a view to forwarding this object, one of the first proposals put forward was the formation of a Savings Bank. Alas! the customs of those days militated against the project. It is stated in the report, I quote its own words, "that the general disposition, however, of the great majority of persons to live up to the full extent of their income, prevented that support necessary to the accomplishment of the undertaking." With an impetuosity which I am disposed to think you seldom associate with Government in these degenerate days, the Government of 1830 stepped in where the Trades Association had failed and started a Savings Bank themselves. The Association was delighted and again I quote the words of the report—"They rejoice that they were the pioneers of so admirable an institution." It was not long no doubt after this, that the Governor-General of the day, Lord William Bentinck, accorded the recognition of Government to the Association as a body worthy to be consulted upon matters of importance, and when the time came for his lordship to leave this country, he received a farewell address from the Association and in his reply he said with much feeling, I am sure "Yours is an impartial and an independent opinion of which, if favourable, any Government would have reason to be

proud." Following the admirable example set by the tradesmen of Calcutta, the mercantile houses shortly afterwards formed an Association of their own which is now known as the Chamber of Commerce. With great consideration they invited the members of the Trades Association to join them. The members of the older body replied, with much dignity no doubt, that while they were unwilling to leave their own Association and join the more recent body, they would be prepared to co-operate with them in any matter of public utility. As a result of this statement of policy, they were shortly afterwards invited to assist the Government in shaping the first Municipal Act and their assistance was of value in setting on foot the present Mayor and Corporation of Calcutta. It is also interesting to note a curious familiarity about the subjects which were discussed in those days—familiarity, that is to say, due to their great similarity with subjects which are discussed at the present day. I find them discussing the state of vagrancy in Calcutta—a matter which, I have no doubt, you have frequently submitted for the consideration of our Commissioner of Police to-day, the need of registration of domestic servants, the state of the Police—a matter to which I have no doubt you have called the attention of the Commissioner of Police too—the scarcity of pice in the bazar, and the high rate charged for freight. Well, so much for the beginning of your Association.

I have been fortunate enough during my term of office up to the present time to have received much assistance and advice from you. I agree with Lord Bentinck that the opinions which you have offered me have always been independent, though I am bound to say that they have not always been favourable. I am thinking in particular of a letter with which you favoured us about twelve months ago, giving your reply to a request which we made—I think you said for the fourth time—upon the advantage or otherwise of exchange of value-payable parcels between the United Kingdom and this country.

There are many matters in which you are necessarily closely interested which are coming to the fore at the present time.

For example, we are undoubtedly at the beginning of an era of considerable industrial development. Government is doing what it can to foster and to guide in suitable channels the industrial energy which is now beginning to make itself felt. An Imperial Department of Industries has been formed with Sir Thomas Holland at its head; we have appointed a Director of Industries in Bengal, and, under the supervision of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, I hope we shall very shortly have a full grown Department of Industries established in this Presidency. But we have great evils to guard against. We have, if possible, to avoid many of the evils which have attended the great development of industries in the West. We

have to do what we can to secure for labour reasonable terms of employment. We are receiving immense assistance from the employers of labour in this matter. Above all we have to endeavour to secure the health of the working population. The owners of jute mills have been of tremendous assistance to us and only this afternoon an employer of labour moved a resolution in the Legislative Council, recommending to the Government of Bengal that they should introduce legislation which would compel all employers of labour to afford their employees certain terms. Let me give you an example of one of the difficulties which we have to face in this matter—not due to the employer of labour but due to the ignorance of labour itself. We are most anxious to eradicate a most unpleasant parasite known as the hookworm from the internal anatomy of the eighty per cent. of the population of Bengal which is apparently troubled with it. An experimental laboratory dealing with this scourge was started in a mill with the assistance of the mill-owner and manager but for some reason or other the labour whom it was sought to benefit got into its head and refused to get out of its head, the belief that this was some new procedure under the Act which it described as the Rowlatt Act. Since they had heard the Rowlatt Act spoken of in no very high terms by those who claim to represent the public, they were naturally averse from having anything to do

with it. On the other hand a labourer whose son had been treated for this complaint came back shortly afterwards and informed the doctor that he regretted he was unable to continue the treatment because his son's appetite had increased so enormously since the first dose of medicine that he was no longer able to feed him !

Now there is another matter in which you are necessarily much interested. I refer to the question of prohibitive rents in Calcutta. I know that you are much interested and I am not surprised for I have had an example put before me in which a tradesman, when the time came for renewing his agreement with his landlord, was asked to pay a rent which was not twice or three times or even four times, but five times the original rent before he succeeded in getting a renewal. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that you are interested in the subject and as a result of the representation made in the Legislative Council by one of your past Masters and I believe your Master to be, the Hon'ble Mr. Phelps, we appointed a committee of representatives of most of the chief interests in the city with instructions to enquire into the question with as little delay as possible and to suggest such remedies as seem to them to be most suitable and to report to the Government of Bengal. I can assure you that as soon as we receive the report of that committee, we shall do our best to carry out any suggestions which they make which seem to us calculated to

ameliorate the present position.. In the meantime much may be done to improve Calcutta from the trading point of view by the body known as the Improvement Trust, which is now presided over by my friend Mr. French whom I see sitting not far from me. He informs me that the scheme of widening the Central Avenue from Prinsep Street to Dhurrumtollah is being subjected to public criticism and he and his Trust are most anxious to get on with the remaining portion of the Central Avenue Scheme, which, when carried out, will give a 100 feet roadway from Dhurrumtollah to Bowbazar and which must inevitably become one of the most important commercial and trading arteries of this city.

Might I say one word about another matter in which I know you are interested, namely, the Registration of Business names. It was once more at the suggestion of the Calcutta Trades Association that the Government of Bengal addressed the Government of India upon this subject some little time ago. By way of reply we received a counter question from the Government of India, namely, what would be the attitude of the commercial community towards not only a Registration of Business names, but also a registration of Partners Bill? That question we have submitted to you and to the other bodies representing the Commerce and Industry of Calcutta, and we are in the course of forwarding your reply to the Government of India. I can

quite well understand that the matter of registering business names is an important one. I noticed that a representative of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, I think, when speaking on this subject at the conference of Chambers of Commerce held in Calcutta a short time ago, gave a few examples of business names which they had in Madras and which suggest persons who clearly are not actually interested in the business. One was Curzon & Co. ; another was Chelmsford & Co. Perhaps the best of all was one which seemed to be almost impudent—"God Bless & Co." I am sure that the Lord Bishop will agree with us that the time has come when legislation is necessary.

Now, I have only one word more to say. I started by saying I had always been an ardent advocate of the employment by humanity of the principle of co-operation in all its activities and in all its relationships. After all there are only two principles upon which a man may proceed in relation to his fellowmen. He may proceed upon the principle of rivalry, or he may proceed upon the principle of co-operation. I think we have tried the first of these two principles too freely during recent years. I feel certain that the immense unrest, the great ferment, which is troubling the world in every country among every community, among all classes, would never have reached its present pitch, if, when the invention of steam first revolutionized the industrial processes of Europe, we had proceeded upon the principle of

co-operation, rather than upon the principle of rivalry. Suppose all this time instead of working on a system involving antagonism between employer and workman, a system based on co-operation between them had been adopted, in other words, that the worker had been a co-partner in the business instead of a mere worker for a fixed wage, I doubt very much whether there would have been any unrest, any strikes, any class warfare, it is even possible that there would have been no war between country and country at all. Therefore, I say, let us, as far as in us lies, encourage and give the principle of co-operation a chance. We, Europeans in this country, have now to make up our mind what attitude we are going to adopt to our fellow-subjects, born of the soil, in respect of what is known as the Reform Scheme. I am delighted to notice that the spokesmen of this Association are adopting the principle of co-operation. One of your past Masters, Mr. Wiggett, said the other day in an excellent speech that, while you might not approve of the particular means adopted to give the people of this country a greater share in the administration of the country, yet now that the matter was a closed subject, he and his friends were going to co-operate to make the scheme a success. Mr. Surendra Nath Banarji made a stirring appeal only a short time ago in the same sense, and in the Legislative Council this afternoon Mr. Watson Smythe speaking for another great commercial body, the



Chamber of Commerce, said frankly that if the Moderate party in this country desired to co-operate with the European community, they had only to hold out their hand and it would be grasped. Well, let us try it. I feel certain that in those who are ready to co-operate with us, we shall find willing workers. Those who are unwilling to co-operate may stand aside, and I think you will find that in the long run the sound, moderate, sensible opinion of the country will prevail. That has taken me, I am afraid, a little wide of the actual subject of my toast this evening which is "the Calcutta Trades Association." It is a toast which I propose right heartily and I couple with it your excellent Master, Mr. Bushby. I congratulate him upon his successful year of office, and if I may do so, I venture to offer to his successor an equally successful and fruitful term of "Mastership." I give you the toast of the Calcutta Trades Association.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the  
Marwari Sanskrit Hostel, on 4th February 1920.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to have been able to be present at this ceremony this morning for many reasons; but for two reasons in particular. In the first place, it gives me great pleasure to be able to associate myself with the many good works for which the builder of this institution is famous. Rai Baldeo Das Birla Bahadur is well-known for his philanthropy. He subscribes impartially to all projects which are designed to benefit humanity. He has recently contributed generously to a scheme promoted by Lady Chelmsford, in the interests of the children of this country. Again, he has been a generous contributor to the scheme for dealing with the scourge of leprosy, and it came to my notice not long ago that he had generously assisted the Principal of the Medical College by the provision of certain equipment which that institution required. Now, on the top of these many gifts, he has come forward and has provided the Hindustani-speaking scholars who have come to this city, with commodious and convenient premises for their use and for their comfort; and Sir Kailash has just told us that he has also been responsible for the establishment of a girls' school which will surely prove of inestimable benefit to a large number of Hindustani-speaking children.

In the second place, it always gives me the greatest pleasure to be afforded opportunities of associating myself with any project which is calculated to encourage and foster the particular form of learning which is distinctive of this country. I have never denied that the people of this country have benefited enormously by the learning from the West which has been given to them by the British people; but I have always protested against the tendency which I have observed on the part of certain classes of the Indian people to adopt the learning of the West to the entire exclusion of the learning of their own country. There is one learning of the West and another learning of the East. Broadly speaking, the feature of the learning of the West is its utilitarian character; the feature of the learning of the East is its speculative and metaphysical character. Now, gentlemen, these two different types of learning are not antagonistic to one another; they should be complementary to one another, and the great object which all those who are interested in the progress of humanity should place before themselves at the present time, is the finding of a synthesis between the learning of the East and the learning of the West. It would surely be a great loss to humanity at large were the idealism which was for many centuries the characteristic of the learning of this country to be lost to the world. It seems to me that the Marwari community, in particular, provides us with a proof that a synthesis between the learning of the East

and the West is quite possible. On the one hand, they are amongst the most ardent supporters and exponents of the ancient religions and philosophies of this country. On the other hand, they have proved conclusively by their achievements that they have absorbed the practical business acumen which is characteristic of the peoples of the West. Not only have they upheld and maintained the idealism of their own country, but they are able also to put into practice the utilitarian characteristics of the western people. Gentlemen, let me express once more my gratification at the particular form which the present generosity of Rai Baldeo Das Birla Bahadur has assumed. I feel sure that his compatriots who come to this great city to prosecute their studies in the ancient learning of this country, will heap blessings upon his name for the great advantages which he is now conferring upon them.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Kalimpong Homes  
Calcutta Committee Meeting, on 10th February 1920,***

GENTLEMEN,

Since we last met in this room the Homes have sustained an unusual number of losses. By the death of Sir Andrew Fraser, of Mr. Carstairs, of Dr. Seal and of Mr. Shannon, the Homes have lost well-beloved and valued supporters, but I need hardly say that the loss which is felt most of all is the loss occasioned by the death of Mrs. Graham. How great was the influence which Mrs. Graham exercised upon those with whom she came into contact is sufficiently demonstrated by the extraordinary and widespread desire which almost immediately displayed itself quite spontaneously for the erection of memorials to perpetuate her memory. The different projects which were put forward by different bodies of persons are so striking that it is worth enumerating them. Mrs. Graham's colleagues naturally enough eagerly desired to raise a memorial to her in memory of her life's work. The memorial which they propose takes the form of a monument in the cemetery. Then the children who benefited so much from Mrs. Graham's motherly care have arranged to place an enlargement of her photograph in each of the cottages at Kalimpong. The old boys and girls who have passed through her hands propose to erect a stained-glass window. The Indian

Christians, who were equally impressed with their European fellow-Christians with the value of the work which Mrs. Graham carried out, propose to erect a tablet in their Mission Church, and a Local Committee, not confined to one race or one creed, but containing persons of many races and many creeds, propose to erect buildings which Mrs. Graham herself had planned for the development of the local industries in which she took so keen an interest and pride. The memorial which I am myself more particularly concerned with, is that which the Board of Management desire to arrange for. It was well known to the members of the Board that one of Mrs. Graham's chief desires was to see erected amidst the Homes themselves a permanent chapel for the use of the boys and girls and those directly associated with the management of the Homes, and we have appealed, therefore, to all those whom we know to be interested in the work which is being carried on at Kalimpong. We have suggested that an undenominational chapel, sufficiently large to accommodate some 800 children, would be the most suitable form of memorial for the Board of Management to erect. We did not confine our appeal, naturally, to the supporters and admirers of the Homes in this country, because we were aware that there was a very large number of persons interested in the Homes who are now resident in Great Britain. We accordingly approached the Committee at Home, as well as sympathisers in this country. So far as this

country is concerned, we have received up to the present time a sum approximating Rs. 26,000. in addition to a promise of £1,000 sterling. I do not myself know what response has been received to the appeal issued by the Committee in Great Britain, but I am hopeful that, as a result of the joint efforts in this country and in Great Britain, the sum of one lakh of rupees which we aim at raising will be secured, and that we shall be able to erect a chapel worthy of the life and example of the Lady whose memory it is to commemorate.

We are fortunate in having with us this evening the Chairman of the London Board's Committee, Sir Charles McLeod, who tells me that he has quite recently returned from his first visit to the Kalimpong Homes. I feel certain that he will have returned inspired by the same feelings of enthusiasm which we all of us, I think, experience when we visit Kalimpong and see the work and labours of Dr. Graham and all those associated with him. When I presided at this meeting last year, I mentioned some of the projects which Dr. Graham is anxious to see proceeded with in the near future, and it was only a few days after that, that I myself had the pleasure, last spring, of cutting the first sod of the first of the six new cottages which he asked for at the time. In the list of requirements which I gave last year there were a large number of other items, but the circumstances are such at the present moment that it is most likely that many of them will have to undergo a temporary postponement. The rise in

the prices of all necessities of life, as well as of all materials such as building materials and so forth, make the task to which Dr. Graham has set his hand a particularly difficult one at the present time, and one of the most serious features of the present financial situation is due to the extraordinary change in the rate of exchange which has taken place during recent months. All missionary enterprises in this country which are subsidised from Great Britain are necessarily suffering severely from this cause. A sum of money in sterling to-day produces only about half the amount in rupees which it did only a short time ago, and as a result of that the Homes are placed under the necessity of raising a sum of Rs. 60,000 more this year than they did last year in order to square their balance-sheet. This, of course, is a matter of considerable anxiety to those concerned and the only way in which that anxiety can be satisfactorily removed is by a revision of their standards of generosity on the part of the subscribers out here.

I do not propose to detain you myself at greater length. We have with us this evening Dr. Graham, who will now, I hope, say a few words to us with regard to the work in the past and the position at present. I feel sure that whatever else may betide, the admirers of Dr. Graham and his work in this country will see that his work does not suffer from any lack of support on their part. I now call upon Dr. Graham to give an account of the year's work done at the Homes.



***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution  
at the Hare School, on 11th February 1920.***

HEAD MASTER AND GENTLEMEN,

His Excellency after congratulating the school authorities on their fine record of work and detailing some of the special features of the school, said:—"It is clear that the Hare School is one of outstanding eminence amongst the High Schools of Bengal, and I feel disposed to ask the boys whether they have ever considered what the origin of the school was. I feel sure that its history is well known to most of them. The school is, indeed, a living monument to a great and unselfish Englishman—David Hare. It is not the only monument which stands in Calcutta to his memory. As I was coming down this afternoon, I saw the tombstone in College Square which was erected by David Hare's friends and admirers. There is also the statue which stands in the grounds of the school itself. These two monuments are interesting in that they bear witness to the love and respect which David Hare inspired amongst those who knew him. But the other monuments, such as the Presidency College and the Hare School, which may be described as living monuments, are of even greater interest. The greatness of a man is proved by the influence which he wields after he has departed life, and if we judge David Hare by this

standard, we must all admit that he was a great man. He was one of the pioneers who introduced Western learning in this country and the seed planted by him and his contemporaries, like the proverbial grain of mustard seed, has grown up into a great tree with spreading branches.

Proceeding, His Excellency dwelt at length on the various educational activities of David Hare, which culminated in the establishment of the Hare School and recalled the names of some great men who were pupils of the institution. "David Hare had not the advantages of position of official authority or of power. He was a simple English tradesman, a watchmaker who came out to this country about the year 1800. For some years he worked at his trade as a watchmaker, but his desire to do something to benefit his fellow-men was so great that in 1816 he gave up his business and devoted the rest of his life to the spread of education amongst the Hindu community. He handed over his watch-making business to a Mr. Grey and I remember reading that an announcement of the change in the occupancy of the watchmaker's shop was made in a newspaper of that day in this rather humorous manner, whether it was humorous by design or not, I do not know:—'Old Hare turned Grey.' • So, David Hare gave up his business to devote himself to the cause of education in this country. Wherein then lay the seeds of his greatness? It lay firstly, in his unselfish devotion to

the cause of his fellow-men; secondly, in his perseverance and his refusal to be discouraged by any obstacles he found in his path; and, thirdly, in no small measure in his extraordinary capacity for taking pains. If, as has sometimes been said, genius is infinite capacity for taking pains, then David Hare was certainly a genius. For a period of some 25 years, he went daily to the little Arpulli Pathshala and gave during the whole of that period his personal attention to his little pupils. India in general, and the Hare School in particular, owe a deep debt of gratitude to David Hare, and there is no way in which the students can repay this debt of gratitude than by living up to the high traditions which he has left them. I wish to congratulate those pupils who have won prizes this afternoon, and I hope that the example which they have set will stimulate others, and that the pupils of the school will continue to maintain that high level of learning and industry, of discipline and of general good conduct, which is so marked a characteristic of this school at the present day."

*Address presented by the Municipality and District Board, Suri, on 13th February 1920.*

1. We, the members of the District Board of Birbhum and the Commissioners of the Suri Municipality, on behalf of the district, respectfully beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this humble address of our loyal and hearty welcome on the auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this town of Suri and to our district, which, though small, yet enjoys the proud distinction of being the home of the first Bengal's poets Jayadeva and Chandidasa and of the first Indian Peer. We would first of all beg leave of Your Excellency to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our firm devotion and loyalty to the august person and throne of His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor both in time of peace and war.

2. During the last great world-war our district strained every nerve to render assistance to the King-Emperor in men, money and materials. Besides supplying a number of soldiers to the Bengalee Regiment, it contributed over Rs. 8,000 in aid of that Regiment; besides other substantial contributions in money, we supplied to the St. John Ambulance Association a fleet of five fully equipped motor ambulances at a total cost of Rs. 40,000 and our contribution to the War Loans

amounted nearly to a sum of nine lakhs of rupees; while our ladies, through their organization, the Birbhum Mahila Samity, contributed liberally in the shape of gifts and comforts for the troops. We, therefore, take a natural pride in, and rejoice at, the happy and successful termination of the war and the decisive victory of our King-Emperor and his Allies. We also beg leave here to express our profound gratitude to our beloved King-Emperor for the great boon of Responsible Government which is about to be conferred on India, and which, we are confident, will open out ever-widening vistas of freedom and progress before the people of our land.

3. Although our district is, we believe, one of the last in the province to be favoured with Your Excellency's visit, we yield to none in the warmth of our welcome to Your Excellency. In common with the other parts of the Presidency we are deeply grateful to Your Excellency for the great personal interest displayed by Your Excellency, ever since taking charge of its administration, in the improvement of Sanitation and Education, and in the advancement of Local Self-Government. If we may be permitted to make a personal reference, we may boldly affirm that never since the days of Lord Ripon has this Presidency experienced such a quickening touch of large-hearted sympathy and progressive liberalism in the sphere of Sanitation, Education and Local Self-Government as during Your Excellency's administration. Not only has Your Excellency

taken into your own hands the portfolio of Sanitation and has initiated a vigorous policy of Sanitary Reform, but the great progressive measures enacted during Your Excellency's administration and under Your Excellency's fostering care in the shape of the Bengal Primary Education Act and the Bengal Village Self-Government Act will ever be cherished as the glorious memorials of Your Excellency's deep concern in our moral and material progress. Further, in the sphere of Local Self-Government, Your Excellency has lately placed the District Boards of this Presidency under a deep and lasting debt of gratitude, not only by inviting their representatives to a conference at Government House and by the cheering words uttered by Your Excellency on that occasion, but above all by the great boon conferred on this District Board in common with a large number of its sister Boards of allowing them in future to elect their own Chairman. While gratefully acknowledging the most valuable and eminent services continuously rendered by the successive Magistrate-Chairmen of this Board, and especially those by our present popular and sympathetic Chairman, we are confident that the privilege now granted to us by Your Excellency of electing our own Chairman will herald the birth of a new era in the development of Local Self-Government in Bengal.

4. We beg now to avail ourselves of the time-honoured privilege so graciously conceded to

us, on such occasions of 'laying' before Your Excellency a brief record of our resources, and of our needs. The income of this Board from the Road and Public Works Cess, and the Augmentation Grant now stands at Rs. 1,77,000. The Board has been spending nearly the whole of this income every year, leaving only a very small working balance. Although the gross closing balance of the Board at the end of last year was Rs. 47,000, this included balances in the hands of Union Committees, outstanding deposits of contractors and educational and other savings from Government grants for specific purposes, the expenditure on which is being incurred this year, so that the net closing balance of the Board actually stood below Rs. 14,000 or a little above the minimum 'working' balance required by the rules.

5. But although the Board is one of the poorest in the Presidency, it has endeavoured not to be among the least progressive. Its 20 working Union Committees raised no less than a sum of Rs. 20,000 by self-imposed taxation, receiving only a sum of Rs. 8,800 from the District Board to supplement their funds. In its eagerness to fully avail itself of the liberal provisions of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, it has resolved to introduce that measure into practically the whole of this district, a resolution which will entail a very large increase in the grants to be made to the Union Boards. It has had to assign

Rs. 23,000 for medical relief; besides the School receipts, the Pound and Ferry income and the grant from Imperial Revenues, it has had to assign an additional sum of Rs. 21,000 to meet the growing expenditure on Education. It has assigned a fourth of its Public Works Cess to expenditure on water-supply; it has been steadily increasing the number of its wells and dispensaries; partly with the help of a generous Government grant, received in 1916; it has every year carried out free distribution of quinine to school children and the poor in malarious areas through school masters and *gurus*, combined with an active educative campaign in respect of malaria and sanitation generally; it has created and aided no less than 122 Night Schools for the free imparting of elementary instruction to the depressed and labouring classes; for the improvement of the cattle of the district it has been purchasing good breeding bulls; it has assigned an annual grant to the District Agricultural Association for aiding agricultural improvements; and it has, since the last financial year, made vaccination free throughout the district and maintained the requisite staff of vaccinators with a view ultimately to introduce compulsory vaccination in the district.

6. But in all this work the Board is seriously hampered owing to the inadequacy of its resources. Great inconvenience is caused to traffic owing to the large number of unbridged rivers and streams in this district, but the bare cost of maintenance



of 833 miles of metalled, unmetalled and village roads leaves no funds, not only for the taking up of new works of communication, but even for effecting further improvement in the existing roads or of bridging any of the rivers and streams which intersect them. We, therefore, respectfully pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased, in consideration of the limited resources at the disposal of this District Board, to relieve it from the burden of the cost of maintaining the Veterinary staff and the Health Department by meeting the same from Government revenues and also by granting additional help to augment the funds of the Board on the lines of the recommendations made by the representatives of the District Boards at their last conference in Government House. We are deeply grateful to Your Excellency for the offer which Your Excellency has made on that occasion of making a temporary contribution towards the cost of the superior Public Health staff, but we pray that in this matter the case of each District Board may be decided on its merit and the poorer District Boards may receive special assistance from Your Excellency's Government.

7. We may be permitted to refer to the fact that, although this district at one time enjoyed the reputation of being a very healthy district, it has now become one of the unhealthiest. We beg to suggest that the unhealthiness of the district has

been caused in a considerable measure by the interference with surface drainage resulting from the insufficiency of waterways in the lines of railways which have been constructed through the district. We believe that in this view we are supported by sanitary experts of high authority, and we pray that Your Excellency's Government will take steps, not only to ensure that sufficient waterways for the facilitation of surface drainage be provided in the railways which may be hereafter constructed through this district, but that steps may be taken to provide more adequate waterways in the already existing railways within the district. We further beg leave to submit to Your Excellency that the ravages to houses and lands caused by frequent inundations of the Ajoy, the More, the Darka, the Brahmani and other rivers of the district, strongly demand the early repair of the old zamindari embankments and the construction of new ones, as well as an increase in the waterways in the existing railway bridges and embankments, the insufficiency of which has been in part responsible for the inundations. We beg further to submit that, as Birbhum is the home of several important and useful industries, such as weaving, cutlery, bell-metal, shellac, silk, *tassar* and cotton, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider the suitability of the establishment of a well-equipped Technological School in this district for the training of our youths in these branches of industry.

8. Lastly, we beg to submit that the improvement of the Birbhum Zilla School, and its removal to a better locality, is very urgently required, and the Director of Public Instruction made proposals in 1915 for the removal of the school to a better locality. We, therefore, pray that funds may now be allotted by Your Excellency's Government for the carrying out of this urgent project.

9. As regards our Municipality, we beg most humbly to Submit that Suri once enjoyed the reputation of being a sanitarium and a health resort, but for some years past, the scourges of Malaria and other epidemic diseases have been rampant, and the improvement of sanitation is the most crying need of the town. We, the Commissioners of the Municipality, have never lost sight of our grave responsibilities in endeavouring to improve the general public health, but we have to admit that owing to our extremely limited resources we have been able to accomplish very little.

10. The main causes of the deterioration of the sanitary condition of the town seem to be the want of drainage of a portion of its most congested parts, and of efficient arrangements for flushing the drains, and the want of good and pure drinking water. A sketch project of a drainage scheme was, therefore, drawn up several years ago, and it received the administrative approval of the Government which promised a loan of Rs. 22,000 and a grant of Rs. 11,000 for this purpose. The scheme has been pending for the last three years, and we

now pray that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to make allotment of the above sums, so as to enable the Municipality to take up the work during the ensuing financial year.

11. For the supply of good and pure drinking water we approached Your Excellency's predecessor during His Excellency's visit to our town in 1915 for the grant of a substantial portion of the cost needed for the completion of the waterworks project. Administrative approval was accorded by the Government to the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,50,000, Government contributing Rs. 50,000. On account of the abnormal rise in prices of the engines and materials on account of war conditions, the project will now cost us Rs. 2,71,926. Out of this amount we have at our disposal a sum of Rs. 68,043 representing contributions from the King Edward Memorial Fund, and subscriptions from private individuals, and a donation of Rs. 30,000 has been promised by the District Board. Owing to its extremely limited resources the Municipality is unable to raise the balance of Rs. 1,73,883 required for the purpose. We pray that in view of the above circumstances Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to contribute the whole of this balance, so that when the project will be completed, it may remain a lasting monument of Your Excellency's visit to Suri.

12. In connection with the Suri Sadar Hospital, which is maintained jointly by the District Board

and the Municipality, there are two urgent projects of improvement, namely, the construction of a ward for infectious diseases and of a female ward at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,500 and Rs. 6,100, respectively. We have keenly felt their want, but financial difficulties have stood in the way of carrying out these two much-needed improvements. The Dispensary Committee have lately approached Your Excellency's Government, through the Surgeon-General, for financial aid towards these projects. In view of the limited resources of the District Board and the Municipality, we pray that Your Excellency's Government will generously make a grant of the amounts required for the capital expenditure for the above schemes.

13. Finally, we heartily thank Your Excellency for having honoured our district with a visit which will be for ever cherished in our grateful memory, and we fervently pray that Your Excellency's tenure of office may continue undisturbed and prosperous, and that Your Excellency may enjoy long life, health and happiness.

*Address presented by the Anjuman-e Mozakerat  
Islamia, at Suri, on 13th February 1920.*

1. We, the members of the Anjuman-e Mozakerat Islamia, of Birbhum, on behalf of the entire body of Moslem population of the district, most respectfully beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to offer Your Excellency our cordial and loyal welcome on the auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's kind visit to this town of Suri.

2. We need hardly assure Your Excellency that the Moslems are ever firm in their unswerving loyalty and devotion to His Most Exalted and Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor, and they are ever grateful for the recognition by His Majesty's Government of the heavy sacrifices made by them during the world-war, both in men and money, under extremely trying and difficult circumstances. It is, therefore, no wonder that they are extremely horrified to learn that, in spite of their valuable services and tested loyalty their religious feelings should be so utterly disregarded in deciding the fate of their religious head, the Holy Khalifa and his Khelafat. It is needless to repeat that the proposed dismemberment of the dominions of the Holy Khalifa, as they were before the war, has cast a deep-seated gloom over the whole of the Moslem population in India and abroad, and has been instrumental in creating an increasing unrest in their minds as time passes on. We

would, therefore, still hope, as loyal citizens of the Empire, and in view of the open pronouncements of the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Prime Minister of England on behalf of the Government, that better counsels would at last prevail upon the British Government to ensure real and permanent peace of the world, and to fully vindicate the sacred trust the Moslems have all along imposed upon them as the protector of their religion. We are ever grateful to Your Excellency for Your Excellency's taking a keen interest in the matter, and we, therefore, still sanguinely hope that our long-cherished confidence and implicit faith in the British sense of justice and fair play would be allowed to suffer no rude shock at the final settlement of the fate of Turkey and the Khelafat which are necessarily to be kept inviolate and inviolable.

3. We are deeply grateful to Your Excellency for Your Excellency's earnest solicitude for the successful improvement of public health and the steps so boldly adopted by Your Excellency in entrusting the people with the administration of their civil affairs in general.

4. We would now crave Your Excellency's kind permission to lay only a few of our grievances before Your Excellency, and pray for their timely redress. It is no secret to Your Excellency that almost all the charitable and religious endowments, created by pious Moslems, are now gradually dwindling into nonentities owing to their gross

mismanagement, at the hands of the present Matwallis, and we believe that some legislation, to secure their efficient management and control, is contemplated by Your Excellency's Government. We, therefore, pray that in order to make such legislation fully acceptable and welcome to the public concerned, due provision be made to give full effect to the original wishes and intentions of the donors. In respect of the progress of Primary Education amongst the Moslems, we may be permitted to submit to Your Excellency that the *muktab* education is highly appreciated by them, and the number of such institutions has been more than 200 in the district. But the satisfactory and efficient working of these schools is seriously hampered on account of the dearth of properly trained *moallims*. As this district stands first in the Division in point of the percentage of Moslem population, we would earnestly pray that Your Excellency's Government would be pleased to establish a *moallim*-training school somewhere near Rampurhat as was formerly proposed.

5. We may be permitted to thankfully acknowledge the valuable assistance and sympathetic treatment which we have all along been receiving from both the Civil, Criminal and all other administrative heads of the district and the Division, and to deserve the same we have ever been harmoniously co-operating with them in all acts of public weal and utility. In this connection we would consider ourselves failing in our duty



if we do not make a special mention of the name of our sympathetic Collector, Mr. G. S. Dutt, whose deep concern in ameliorating the condition of the people at large so fortunately placed under his charge, in all their social, educational and economic progress and advancement, has won for him their lasting gratitude and made his endearing name a household word with every one of them.

In conclusion, we once again beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency our loyal and hearty welcome and pray for Your Excellency's long life and good health, so that Your Excellency may have ample opportunities to do works of public benefit and utility.

*Address presented by the District Agricultural Association, Suri, on 13th February 1920.*

1. We, the members of the District Agricultural Association of Birbhum and the representatives of its 85 Branch Associations, on behalf of ourselves and of the agriculturists of the district, respectfully beg to accord our loyal and hearty welcome to Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's gracious visit to this district.

2. We feel proud of the privilege which has been so graciously conceded by Your Excellency to this Association of approaching you with their humble address of welcome. We believe this is the first time in the history of the country that the Ruler of the Presidency has condescended to receive an address from a body so directly representing the agricultural population and the agricultural interests. The occasion will, therefore, be a memorable one in the history of our country, and, indicating, as it does, Your Excellency's earnest solicitude and care for the improvement of our agriculture, will, we feel sure, have a powerful and far-reaching effect in the encouragement of our greatest industry and of those engaged in its pursuit. Especially will it serve as a great stimulus for the movement for which our Association stands, namely, the movement for organized educative work among the people for their economic, moral and mental

development through a system of voluntary associations of the people themselves.

3. With Your Excellency's permission we shall now give a brief recital of our work and of our aims and ideals. Founded in 1905, our Association did not expand its work among the great mass of the people till the year 1917, when it realized that the most effective way to bring about the improvement of our agriculture was to bring the demonstration of improved methods and of the results of modern scientific research to the very door of the farmers: and in January 1918, the Association accordingly expanded its work through a system of Branch Agricultural Associations which, beginning from Thana Agricultural Associations, have gradually developed into smaller and more compact Village Agricultural Associations, until now we have no less than 85 Branch Agricultural Associations spread through the villages of the district, and our total transactions are represented by a budget provision of Rs. 13,000 in the present year. In our Branch Associations we have been endeavouring to bring together the rich and the poor, the literate and the illiterate, the conservative and the progressive, so that the poor may benefit through joint action and association with the rich, and the illiterate and the conservative may, through the medium of visual demonstration and of the spoken word passed at the meetings of our Associations, come up to the level of the literate and the progressive, and benefit from the latter's experience. The

results we have already achieved, by treating an active and infectious spirit of association and co-operation through our villages and a spirit of self-help and desire for improvement, are most gratifying and cannot, we believe, be measured merely through the value of the improved seeds and manures and the improved methods which we have been popularising or the direct economic advantages, great though they are, which have accrued from their use. By attempting to call forth the spirit of self-help and co-operation we have made considerable progress in a practical manner towards the re-excavation of many irrigation tanks which had been lying in a silted-up and neglected condition for many generations, and we hope to make even greater progress in this direction in the near future. By publishing a vernacular quarterly journal we have also been attempting to stimulate and co-ordinate the work of all our individual farmers and our Branch Associations. By instituting, through the generous assistance of the Suri Exhibition Committee, two bronze Challenge Shields for competition among our Branch Associations we are attempting to create a healthy spirit of emulation among them. Although the results we have already achieved in this short space of time have exceeded our most sanguine hopes, they are but little when compared with what we hope to achieve when our organization becomes fully matured and expanded.

4. We beg leave here to express our gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for the ready and invaluable help and encouragement we have received from the Department of Agriculture and from Your Excellency's officers at every stage of our development. In particular, we beg to express our gratefulness to the Department of Agriculture for giving us three Agricultural Officers and a Demonstrator for each thana and to the Superintendent of Agriculture, Burdwan Division, and the District Agricultural Officer for their most valuable assistance. We beg also to express our deep thankfulness to Your Excellency for Your Excellency's encouraging reference to our movement at the meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association in July 1918 at the very outset of our work of expansion; to the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming, C.S.I., C.A.E., I.C.S., Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council, for his personally encouraging us at our last annual gathering, and to Your Excellency's Government for the appreciative reference made to our movement in its Resolution of the 7th June 1919. In particular we have been deeply touched with pride and gratitude at the public appreciation Your Excellency's Government expressed in a recent Resolution of the work of our President who has organized and inspired us for combined action, and who has been the life and soul of all our activities.

5. We beg now to submit to Your Excellency that, although we depend first and foremost on

self-help and co-operation among ourselves, but efforts can only be crowned with complete success by State assistance supplementing them. While, therefore, thanking Your Excellency's Government for all the assistance which has been given to us and in particular for sanctioning the establishment of a Demonstration Farm at Suri, we beg to lay the following prayers for Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration.

6. In the first place we beg to submit that the extensive damage caused annually to agricultural land and crops owing to the breaches in the zamindary embankments along the rivers of this district call for the speedy repair of those embankments. We understand that proposals for the repair for eight of the most important of these embankments have been pending with the Public Works Department for the last five years, and we pray that not only may the repair of these embankments be now taken in hand without delay, but that the procedure under the Embankment Act may be simplified with a view to speedier action for the repair of embankments at the instance of the tenants whose lands are damaged by successive inundations. Further, we beg leave to submit that, although we have taken up the re-excavation of many irrigation tanks by mutual agreement through our Branch Agricultural Associations, difficulties are often experienced owing to some of the persons interested in these projects either keeping aloof or obstructing them. Difficulty is

also felt in financing the work of re-excavation, as the tenants who have the right to irrigation and who are willing to undertake the re-excavation are mostly not owners of the tanks and cannot, therefore, be advanced loans under the present provisions of the Land Improvement Act. We pray, therefore, that Your Excellency's Government will consider the desirability of the early introduction of legislation to assist our voluntary efforts in such works of agricultural improvement as the re-excavation and maintenance of irrigation tanks, and the construction and repair of protective embankments, and to authorize the granting of Land Improvement Loans for these purposes to the tenants interested.

7. We further pray that in order to facilitate in future the conservation and repair of irrigation tanks and to prevent them from being converted into paddy lands to the detriment of those having irrigation rights in them, Your Excellency's Government will direct a comprehensive record of irrigation rights in these tanks to be drawn up and maintained after due enquiry. We further beg to submit that our Branch Associations are eager to take up many small works of irrigation by utilizing rivers and natural streams and that the need for the services of a competent Agricultural Engineer is constantly felt to advise on such projects, the District Engineer being unable owing to pressure of District Board work to give any material assistance to us in these matters. We,

therefore, pray that Government may be pleased to appoint a special Agricultural Engineer to advise us regarding schemes of irrigation. We are thankful to Your Excellency's Government for having sanctioned the erection of a seed store at each subdivisional headquarter. But we beg to submit that as our work is expanding we feel the need for a number of seed stores at other centres besides subdivisional headquarters. Our resources are not sufficient to enable us to erect all the seed stores unaided by Government, and we, therefore, pray that Government may make suitable contribution towards the expenses of erecting seed stores at important centres besides subdivisional headquarters.

8. We beg further to submit to Your Excellency that we have been deeply convinced of the impossibility of finally improving our agriculture without devising adequate means for remedying the evils caused by, and the waste involved in, the excessive fragmentation of holdings. Our Branch Associations have been attempting in a small scale to encourage the consolidation of holdings, but we feel that the matter is such a large and difficult one, involving as it does difficulties inherent in our system of land tenure, and the Hindu and Muhammadan Laws of Succession, that no satisfactory progress can be made towards the consolidation of holdings unless facilities be given for it by new legislation, and we pray, therefore, that Your Excellency's Government may give your sympathetic consideration



to the desirability of enacting legislation for this purpose. For the present we beg to suggest that a statutory provision may be made to legalise the consolidation of private holdings by mutual exchange of lands among parties without the payment of any fee for receiving the consent of the landlords to such consolidation.

9. Lastly, we beg to submit that, although the scheme of Agricultural Middle Schools is considered by Government to be yet in an experimental stage in this Presidency, it has nowhere a better chance of success than in our district where the majority of people are practical agriculturists who have already shown in a practical manner their eager desire to fully avail themselves of the benefit of such instructions. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to sanction the establishment of an Agricultural School in this district in the near future.

10. Finally, we thank Your Excellency for the proud privilege given to us of presenting Your Excellency with this humble address, and we pray for Your Excellency's long life, health and prosperity.

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*His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented  
at Suri, on 13th February 1920.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to thank the members of the District Board, the Commissioners of the Municipality, the members of the Anjuman Mozekarai Islamia and the members of the Agricultural Association for the addresses which have just been presented to me.

I have long looked forward to my visit to your district, of which I have often heard, though I have not up to now found an opportunity of seeing it. Your district, though not large in area, can claim to have given men of eminence to India; and you are legitimately proud of your connection with the foremost Indian statesman of the day, Lord Sinha, and with the two famous poets whose names you mention, Jayadeva and Chandidas. The romantic love story of the latter is well known to me, and I believe I am correct in saying that in his poetic writings he gave a high spiritual interpretation to a cult known as the cult of Sahajia, which had proved capable of serious abuse at the hands of persons of less lofty ideals than his own.

I am here to-day in my capacity as head of the administration, and I need hardly say how delighted I am to learn from the address of the Anjuman Islamia of the cordial relations which exist between the officials and the people. I know well how much the people of this district are

indebted to your District officer, Mr. Dutt. The impetus which has been given to 'agricultural progress by the 'formation of large numbers of agricultural societies throughout the district, owes much to Mr. Dutt's guidance and inspiration; and it is fitting that it should be in the district of which he is in charge that the head of the Government in Bengal should receive for the first time an address from a body so directly associated with the cultivating classes as is the District Agricultural Association.

From the address of the Municipal and District Boards I learn that you are alive to the importance of modern systems of drainage and water-supply in the interests of public health, and you ask for assistance from Government towards the carrying out of two schemes having these objects in view. A Government grant of Rs. 11,000 and a loan of Rs. 22,000 were promised towards the drainage scheme in 1916, and in 1918 we expressed our readiness to carry out our promise. At that time, however, the Municipal Commissioners were not in a position to take up the loan, and I understand that they are awaiting the results of a revision of the assessment before making their application for the same. Under these circumstances we must necessarily postpone making budget provision until we receive a definite application. I believe that the drainage scheme is more urgent than the water-works, and I would suggest that the question of financing the latter should be considered after the former has been definitely provided for.

There are other matters on behalf of which you ask for Government aid. I am afraid that until we know the result of the representations which we are making at this moment to the Financial Relations Committee which is considering the financial position of the different provinces under the Reform Scheme, it is difficult for me to do much to meet your wishes.

You require an infectious diseases ward and a female ward as additions to the Suri Sadar Hospital, at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,500 and Rs. 6,100, respectively. I have been looking into the finances of the hospital, and I notice that the Municipality recently reduced its annual contribution towards it from Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 1,200. In spite of this the hospital authorities found themselves in a position in 1918 to invest a sum of Rs. 6,300. Now the Commissioner has promised a grant of Rs. 2,500 towards a female ward, provided the balance of Rs. 3,600 is raised locally. Would it not be possible to provide the balance out of the Rs. 6,300 which was invested, and so to earn the Rs. 2,500 promised by the Commissioner? In any case since Government are at present unable to help, I shall myself be glad to make a donation and shall arrange for the payment to the hospital authorities of a sum of Rs. 3,000.

With regard to your requests to be relieved of the cost of maintaining the veterinary staff and the health department, I am afraid we cannot do more than we are doing. I am told that the total expenditure of the District Board on veterinary

relief is only Rs. 2,600 a year which is not a large amount. The Board receives from Government in the shape of the augmentation grant Rs. 19,000, and veterinary relief is one of the objects for which this grant is made.

With regard to the public health officer to be appointed during the coming year, we are prepared to render some assistance as I said in December last, and provision is being made in the budget for this purpose.

On the question of District Board finance generally, I would urge, as I have done on several occasions in the past, that more use should be made of loans when work necessitating capital expenditure has to be undertaken.

I am afraid that the same reasons which stand in the way of Government giving financial assistance to the hospital, militate against the fulfilment of the educational schemes which you have put forward. Funds for the removal of the Zilla School are not available; and the cost of establishing a well-equipped Technological School would be considerable. I will, however, have an enquiry made into the possibility of appointing a peripatetic instructor in weaving—a course which we have pursued with successful results in one or two other parts of the Presidency. With regard to Agricultural schools I am afraid I can only repeat what I have said recently at Rampur-Boalia and at Sirajganj, namely, that before extending the system of agricultural vernacular schools we must await

the results of the experiments now being made at Dacca and Ghinsura. I will refer the question of a *moallim*-training school at Rampurhat to the Inspector of Schools for his opinion..

I have listened with interest to the statement which you have made of the aims and activities of the Agricultural Association. The work of the Association has been viewed with sympathy and deep interest by Government, and I am glad to learn that you have derived valuable assistance from the officers whom we have placed at your disposal, as well as encouragement from the interest which I myself and the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming have taken in your progress.

You call my attention to the damage caused to crops and houses by river floods, and you urge the necessity of the repair of the old zamindari embankments and the construction of new ones. My expert advisers are inclined to think that the Schedule D embankment on the south side of the river Ajai should be permanently maintained and an extension from Sagorputul to Buxibazar should be made. At the same time they hold that there must be an escape to provide for the case of very high floods such as that of 1916. Data to enable them to decide upon the extent of this escape are not yet complete, owing to the fact that the last two years during which observations have been in progress have been singularly free of heavy floods. I fully sympathise with those who have suffered from big floods in the past, and I can

Understand their impatience of delay. But I am bound to remind them that experience has proved, only too often, the danger of constructing embankments without the most careful calculation of their possible effects, and cases are not wanting where the erection of embankments, without the most careful scientific investigation, has been responsible for far greater evils than those which they were intended to prevent. You also suggest the early introduction of legislation to assist you in effecting agricultural improvements, such as the re-excavation and maintenance of irrigation tanks and other similar works. I hope to be able to introduce a Bill within the next few weeks, under the title of the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Bill, which, I trust, may become law at no very distant date, and which should prove of real assistance to you. Then you ask that a comprehensive record of irrigation rights in tanks should be prepared and maintained. This will be done by the Settlement Department when the district comes under settlement. I am afraid we cannot arrange for an Agricultural Engineer for the district. I should have thought the existing District Engineer should have been able to give all the advice at present required. And in the matter of seed stores, Government decided quite recently, after very careful consideration, that such stores, if required at places other than subdivisional headquarters, should be established and maintained by non-official bodies, such as Agricultural and Co-operative Societies or local authorities.

Government are, of course, well aware of the difficulties which are put in the way of agricultural improvements by the excessive fragmentation of holdings. But the real obstacles in the way of an alteration in this respect are the rigorous laws of inheritance; and with these Government are not in a position to interfere.

The address of the Anjuman Islamia refers to the terms of peace to be imposed upon Turkey. I have always sympathised with the feelings of the Muhammadans of India in the difficulties in which they have been placed by the most ill-advised action of the Turkish Government in throwing in their lot with our enemies and deliberately ranging themselves against us in the late war; and I have never ceased representing your feelings in the proper quarters. But surely when you speak of an utter disregard of your feelings in the decision with regard to the Khalif and His Khilafat, you are somewhat premature. I myself have no knowledge as to what decision, if any, affecting the Khilafat has finally been arrived at. Indeed, so far as I know, no final decision as to the peace terms has yet been reached; and if, therefore, I were to ask you to tell me in what particular respect your feelings had been utterly disregarded, I am quite certain that you could not do so. In the meantime you may rest confidently assured that no opportunity has been or is being lost of impressing the views and feelings of the Muhammadans of this country upon the British



Government in London and upon the representatives of the Allied Powers at the Peace Conference in Paris. More than that it is not possible for me to say. The address also refers to the possibility of legislation being undertaken to secure efficient management and control over charitable and religious endowments. Legislation of this nature is pending before the Imperial Legislative Council, and you may rest assured that it is not in any way designed to interfere with the original wishes and intentions of the donors; but, on the contrary, to enable effect to be given to them.

Now, I have touched upon the greater number of matters which have been brought to my notice in your addresses; and any others to which I may not have referred have been brought to the notice of the departments of Government concerned. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to have been able to hand out grants to all the deserving objects to which you have referred. I have been unable to do this for reasons over which I have no control. But I am permitted to mention that in commemoration of my visit, a generous resident in this neighbourhood, the Raja of Hetampur, has decided to do two things. He has decided to hand to me a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of constructing a causeway over the Bakreswar river by the village of Chinpai—a project which will, I am sure, prove of very great benefit to the people of the locality. And he has decided to hand to Lady Ronaldshay a sum of Rs. 2,000 for any charitable purpose which

she may name. Her Excellency asks me to make it known that she proposes to allot Rs. 1,000 for improving the water-supply of the Leper Asylum at Bankura, and Rs. 1,000 to the Sadar Hospital here. I would take this opportunity of extending to the generous donor of these sums the profound thanks of Lady Ronaldshay and myself.

I have already detained you too long; but I cannot conclude without expressing to all of you my sincere appreciation of the very kindly references which you have made to myself. Anything that I may have been able to do to quicken progress along the lines of education, of Local Self-Government, or of public health, has been and will continue to be with me a labour of love. I am being more than repaid by the response which I am meeting with in the districts throughout the Presidency. To take but a single example, the way in which the Union Boards of this district have set to work is a source of immense encouragement to me. That your 20 working Union Committees should have found Rs. 20,000 by self-taxation voluntarily imposed, shows that their members are imbued with a high sense of civic responsibility, and augurs well for the future success of the Village Self-Government Act in this part of the Presidency. Equally gratifying is the enlightened policy pursued by the District Board in the matter of public health. I trust that with the assistance of all public-spirited residents in the district, progress may continue in all directions tending to the welfare and contentment of the people.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Birbhum Agricultural Exhibition, held on 14th February 1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

• My first words must be an expression of my satisfaction at having been able to accept your invitation to be present at the opening of your Exhibition this afternoon. The time of the Head of the Administration in Bengal is always very fully occupied, and it is impossible for him to accept all the invitations which he receives, but I was particularly anxious to be present this afternoon for reasons which I shall now try to explain. "

I was anxious to show you that though I am not often able to be present amongst you in person, I do keep a watchful and interested eye upon you from the seat of Government in Calcutta. I have watched with special sympathy and satisfaction the quickening of the social impulse which has been so marked a feature of the public life of this district during recent years. What do I mean by the words "the quickening of the social impulse"? I mean this—the growing realization by the people that the welfare of the individual is bound up with the welfare of the community as a whole. When once a man has understood that this is so, he realizes that if his neighbours suffer, sooner or later he himself will suffer also and he will be ready, therefore, to work hand in hand with his fellow-men for the good of society at large, knowing, as he will,

that if society prospers he will prosper too." This is the great truth upon which the great principle of co-operation in all its aspects is based. Let me call your attention for a moment to the motto which is inscribed upon the two medals which I have presented for competition at the Exhibition—*"Janani Janmabhūmīśha Sargadāpi Goriāśhi"*—mother and the motherland are higher even than heaven itself. What does a man mean when he speaks of his motherland. He is not thinking, surely, merely of the earth, the trees, the rivers and so on which go to make up the particular piece of country in which he lives. These things have a beauty of their own no doubt, but if a man was obliged to live amongst them isolated, and cut off from the society of his fellow-men, he would scarcely be likely to look upon them with feelings of affection or respect. No—it is the community of interest which binds together the men of a particular country which gives real meaning to the expression "one's motherland," and if a man would give reality to the expression he can only do so by working hand in hand with all the children of their common mother. And after all to have realized the existence of a common bond between rich and poor, between high and low and, indeed, between all sorts and conditions of men, is but to have set foot upon the first rung of the ladder which leads up step by step to the highest knowledge proclaimed by the *Rishis* of this land, knowledge of the unity of all life, knowledge of the self or, as some would put it, of the "One." The knowledge in short embraced

in a brief but pregnant sentence around which centres the whole teaching of the *Upanishads*—*Tat-tvam asi*—“thou art that.” In this age, however, we have to consider the material requirements of man. What is it from which we all suffer at the present time. Undoubtedly it is the high prices which we have to pay for all the things which we require, whether it be food or clothing, or articles for our comfort. The main cause of this state of affairs is well-known. It is due to the fact that during the great war mankind at large has produced an insufficient quantity of all those things which mankind requires. The remedy then is obvious, namely, increased production; and from this Exhibition you will learn many lessons which will teach you how this can best be brought about. You will learn, for example, that by co-operating together, you can produce more at a smaller cost than you could, if you each work independently. Then again, you will benefit from the lessons which are to be derived from the experience of others; for example, it has been discovered that the higher land in this district which in the past has too often remained waste land can be used with advantage to grow the crop known as groundnut. All those who attend this Exhibition will learn that this is so, and in this and in many other ways, therefore, all will be able to benefit from the experience of a few.

I have now, perhaps, said enough to show you that I am greatly gratified at the progress which has been made in this district in the introduction

of co-operation amongst all classes for the good of the community as a whole and to show you also that I appreciate the advantages which you can all derive from an Exhibition of this kind. You will now understand why it was that I was so anxious to give you such encouragement as I could by my presence here amongst you this afternoon and by the presentation, which I have made to you, of the two medals to which reference has already been made. My concluding words must be words of gratitude and of congratulation to all those who have worked so hard to make this Exhibition a success, and in particular I offer my congratulations to Babu Jyotish Chandra Chattarji, of Mullarpara, who has been awarded my silver medal for the splendid work which he has done in the cause of agricultural co-operation. You all have my sincere good wishes for the continued success of the movement which has already made such splendid progress in your district, and which should serve as a valuable example to other districts of the Presidency over which I am privileged to rule.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of the  
Memorial Stone of the Ronaldshay Medical  
School, Burdwan, on 16th February 1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

The school of which I have just laid the commemoration stone, is the first fruits of a policy which has recently been adopted by the Government of Bengal after careful and prolonged consideration. At this time of the day, there are no two opinions as to the need of a large number of medical practitioners for the people of this Presidency. That is admitted on all hands, but there have been and possibly there still are differences of opinion as to the best way of meeting that need. There are some, for example, who suggest that the best way of providing the Presidency with the increased number of doctors which it requires, would be by establishing a large number of comparatively cheap medical schools where instruction would be given in the vernacular. Then again, there are others who, while they agree with us that it would be unfortunate to lower in any way the standard which we at present demand, consider that the right policy would be to concentrate our efforts upon one great centre, the City of Calcutta, to increase in that city the facilities which already exist for medical training on Western lines. The Government of Bengal have adopted neither of these two alternatives. After most careful consideration, they have

decided that the right policy to pursue is gradually to establish at important centres throughout the Presidency medical schools on modern lines. We have to take the responsibility of giving to the medical practitioners, who pass through our schools, the hall-mark of a Degree or of the Licentiate of Medicine, and since we have to take that responsibility, we feel that we must demand that all those persons who pass through our schools shall attain a certain minimum standard of knowledge and efficiency, and the standard which we have decided as necessary is the standard which is now attained by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon Class, which requires of a man that he should undergo a four years' course of training in our medical schools, the medium of instruction being the English language. Now, we, as representing the British Government, have a special responsibility in this particular matter, because of all the many branches of learning which Great Britain has given to the people of this country, the science of Surgery and modern Medicine is the one which is most distinctively associated with Western civilization. This particular branch of learning did not receive the same enthusiastic welcome from the people of this country when it was first introduced, as it extended to many other branches of Western learning. The reason for that is perfectly obvious. Modern Surgery requires of a man that he should be ready to dissect a corpse—an idea that was repulsive to the Hindu mind, and it was not until comparatively recent years that that scruple was



overcome.' It was in fact a pupil of the little English school started by a well-known Englishman—Mr. David Hare—in Calcutta, who first had the courage to undertake this task—Babu Madhusudan Gupta; and it was only by degrees that Mr. Hare and his friends amongst the Hindu community overcame the prejudice to which I have referred and gradually started the people of this country upon the pathway of modern Surgery and Medicine. And so I say we have a special responsibility in this matter, and we do feel that it is up to us to maintain in our Government schools a really high standard of efficiency and practice. Well, now with regard to the other proposal—the proposal that we should concentrate our efforts upon increasing the facilities which already exist in Calcutta—we considered that, and we came to the conclusion that, the right policy was no longer to encourage students to congregate in Calcutta. Indeed, we are already suffering from the disadvantages of an undue number of students coming from the mufassal as it is, and we decided, therefore, that the right policy was to establish new schools, not in Calcutta, but in important centres in the mufassal itself. Of course I am not blind to the obstacles which stand in the way of the carrying out of our policy. So far as the standard of education which we demand is concerned, it necessarily involves considerable expenditure. The man who passes through our medical schools requires a reasonable return when he starts practising, for the expensive education

which he has been through, and it is said by some that all the medical men, whom we turn out, turn their eyes for that reason to the big towns, where they expect to be able to obtain a larger remuneration for their services than they could expect from the country villages. Undoubtedly, that is the case; but I shall look more and more in the future, to local self-governing bodies, such, for instance, as District Boards and Union Committees, to help us in this matter. Experiments are already being made in some parts of the Presidency, as a result of which medical practitioners are retained in the villages by a subsidy from District Boards or Union Committees, and in that way, I think we shall, as time goes on, be able to get over this particular difficulty. Then there is another difficulty in the way of the successful carrying out of our policy. It is sometimes forgotten that we cannot establish an efficient medical school unless we have a comparatively large hospital at which the clinical training necessary may be given. And it is largely due to the fact that there did exist in the town of Burdwan,—thanks very largely to the past generosity of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, and his family,—a really first class mufassal hospital that we selected the town of Burdwan as the seat of our first experiment in the introduction of mufassal medical schools. As time goes on, no doubt, we shall find in other large centres hospitals growing up of sufficient size and of a sufficiently higher standard to enable us by degrees to

establish other medical schools. The Surgeon-General has already expressed his gratitude to the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur for the great assistance which he has rendered us in the establishment of this school. He has referred to the fact that he at once came forward and provided us with the land which was necessary for the building, and I would add my own personal thanks, as well as the thanks of the Government of Bengal, to the expression of gratitude to the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur which fell from the lips of the Surgeon-General. But the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has not been satisfied with that. I am privileged to make an announcement this morning to the effect that the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur is about to hand over to Government the sum of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of endowing a course of lectures at the new medical school when it is completed, upon one of the endemic diseases from which Bengal suffers—Malaria, Kala-Azar, or whatever disease may be considered most suitable. Let me again, therefore, offer to him the most profound thanks of Government for this additional act of generosity upon his part. There is one other act of courtesy for which I have to express to him my personal thanks. He has invited me to allow my name to be associated with the new school, and he has offered, in the event of my accepting his proposal, to place in the portico of the new building a marble bust of myself. Well, gentlemen, it is characteristic of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur

that, while he has in reality done practically everything himself, he should desire that some other person's name should be associated with his good work, and I accept most gratefully the charming compliment which he desires to pay to me, and I am most willing that my name may be associated with the school. It is, indeed, a matter of supreme satisfaction to me to know that such efforts, as I have been able to make to start the people of this Presidency upon a career of improved health, have met with recognition and with support and encouragement from the leading men of this Presidency. I remember a little more than two years ago, when replying to the address presented to me by the District Board, I stated that one of the objects which I had laid down as one of those which I desired to see achieved during the term of my office, was a big improvement in the public health of the Presidency. No one is more conscious than I am of the little that I have been able to do. But we do feel that we have at least aroused the interest of the public in matters of public health, and I take no little pride and pleasure in the desire which has been expressed that my name should be associated with a project of this kind.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Barrackpore Park School Prize-giving, on 20th February 1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am delighted to welcome the Head Master and the pupils of the Barrackpore Park School at the prize distribution once more. It has given me great pleasure on the last two occasions and now for the third time to see you happily enjoying yourselves in the grounds of Government House.

The Head Master in his address referred to the origin of the school, and I know that you pride yourselves that your school has in the past been under the immediate eye of the Viceroy and latterly of the Governors of Bengal.

Recently I came across some interesting letters written at the time the school was founded by the sister of Lord Auckland with whom the idea originated. It seems to me you might be interested to hear what she had to say about the foundation of your school.

Writing in 1836, she says:—

“George is going to build a school, at his own private expense, for native children, and we went to look for a corner of the Park to put it in.”

As you know, they were successful in finding a corner and your school now stands on the spot which was then chosen.

Writing in November of the same year, she says:—

“George is building a school in a corner of the Park at Barrackpore, upon Captain Cunningham’s plan and the schoolmaster is to be taken from the Hindu College, and to teach the little Barrackporeans English. The school promises to be a very pretty building.”

Then she writes another letter on Easter Sunday in the following year:—

“George’s new school has been open this last fortnight, and some of the little native boys already read a fable in one syllable. It is astonishing how quick they are when they choose to learn.”

One more letter I will read and one of particular interest to us this afternoon—for it shows that the boys in those days were as fond of Shakespeare as you are to-day. What she says is this:—

“We have a gentleman here, a great school man, who is come to examine George’s school for prizes. It is astonishing what those boys have learnt in three years—common labourers’ sons—but the native children have a passion for school; the *first class are mad about Shakespeare*, which to my mind does them great credit. Some of them are getting places now in European shops,

and, one in an office, which has made the school more popular than ever."

I thought you would find these letters of interest at the present day.

In the course of the Report read by the Head Master I learned that parties of the boys are taken to Calcutta and shown places of historical and other interest in the city. I noticed that one of the places visited was the Eden Gardens. Miss Eden was Lord Auckland's sister and the writer of these letters, and it was she and her sister who founded the Gardens and after whose name they are called.

I congratulate you on an excellent academic record. That ten boys went up for Matriculation, that all passed and that nine passed in the first division, is a performance of which all may be justly proud.

Last year I commented on the excellent way in which English is taught in this school, and fresh proof of this is to be found in the fact that a boy from this school stood first in the subject of English among all the boys from the Presidency Division who were candidates for the Matriculation Examination, and was awarded the University medal.

We have listened with pleasure to recitations in Sanskrit, Bengali, Urdu and last, but not least, in English, and I congratulate all who recited. I was asked to select the boy whom I thought

recited in English best. I thought the boy who represented Mark Antony should be placed first, because I thought his pronunciation and intonation were a little better than the others, and on this ground, and this ground alone, I awarded him first prize, but all did well, and I congratulate the Head Master that the school continues to enjoy such excellent tuition in the English language.

My final word is also one of congratulation—this time on the excellent discipline observed throughout the year—and on the excellent way in which all boys and masters alike celebrated the restoration of peace and the triumphant victory of Great Britain and her Allies.



***His Excellency's Speech at the Convocation of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj, Dacca, on 1st March 1920.***

It gives me great pleasure to preside once more at the Annual Convocation of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj, and to be able to congratulate its members upon a year of successful work. With them I deplore the loss which the Samaj has sustained by the death of some of its most eminent adherents.

Mention is made in the report, which has just been read, of the aspirations of the Samaj. The future of the Samaj has, indeed, been a subject of sporadic discussion for some time past, and as a result of these discussions certain definite requests have now been put forward which may be summarized as follows :—

- (1) The grant to the Samaj of independence and a self-contained existence.
- (2) Recognition by Government of the titles conferred by the Samaj.
- (3) An increase in the annual grant for stipends and honoraria at present made by Government to the Samaj.
- (4) The provision of a habitation and library for the Samaj's use.

Let me deal with these four matters one by one. With regard to No. (1), if by independence and a self-contained existence is meant something

which the Samaj does not already possess, I have failed to understand what that something is. The Samaj is already free to carry out its work without interference by Government. Indeed the only control exercised by Government over the affairs of the Samaj is in the shape of the conditions ordinarily imposed in connection with its grant-in-aid.

If, however, the suggestion is that the Samaj should be accorded an official status, similar to that possessed by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association, then I am afraid it is one which is impossible of fulfilment. And in this connection it is desirable that I should explain precisely what the position of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association is.

After the creation of the Presidency of Bengal the Government of Bengal felt the need of some authoritative body to advise them on matters affecting Sanskrit education, and as a result of certain recommendations made by a conference appointed to consider the question in 1913, decided to establish a body which would comprise a large and representative deliberative convocation of pandits from all parts of Bengal and Assam, and an executive council of 17 members, exclusive of a President and Secretary. A council containing an equal number of pandits from East and West Bengal was duly created by Government by a resolution dated January the 21st, 1918, and this council was charged with the duties of acting as general agent and adviser of Government in all

matters connected with indigenous, Sanskrit learning, of conducting examinations, of awarding titles, and of performing other duties formerly performed by the Sanskrit Examination Board which it had succeeded. The convocation which was to form the deliberative part of the new authority has also since been formed and consists of 500 pandits from all parts of Bengal and Assam. Of these 500 pandits 241 are from Western Bengal and 259 from Eastern Bengal and Assam. I may add that it was the intention of the council to summon the convocation to meet during the present month, but owing to various unforeseen difficulties the meeting has been postponed and will take place, I hope, later in the year. This new body consisting of the council and the convocation to which I have referred, is known as the Calcutta Sanskrit Association. And I hope that the very brief explanation which I have given of its origin and of the duties which have been assigned to it will have made it clear that since its *personnel* is drawn from all parts of Bengal and Assam, and since it has been definitely made responsible by Government for the discharge of certain specified duties throughout the whole, not only of Bengal but of Assam as well, it would now be quite impossible to set up a second body for the same purpose. This could only be done by dividing up the area now served by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association and setting up a second body to perform the same duties for a specified area; in other words, by separating Eastern Bengal from the

remainder of Bengal and Assam, and creating a second body to act as the agent and adviser of Government for that particular area. But if that were done, it is obvious that the pandits of Eastern Bengal, who now form so large and important a part of both the convocation and the council of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association, would have to withdraw from that body. And even if I thought that such a division of territory, with the establishment of two equal authorities in place of the existing authority, was in the best interests of sanskrit learning, which I do not, I know well that the pandits of Eastern Bengal would not be willing to secede from the Calcutta Association; for they themselves said so quite definitely at the conference held in 1913.

The question of the recognition by Government of Sanskrit titles is bound up with the question of the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association. That Association, as I have already pointed out, has been definitely charged with the functions of the Sanskrit Examination Board which it has superseded. As the agent of Government throughout the Presidency it alone is charged with the duty of holding the Sanskrit Title Examination. It may be said in reply to this that the titles conferred by other sanskrit bodies differ in their character from those conferred by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association, and might, therefore, be recognized by Government without prejudice to the authority of the latter body. To such an argument I would

reply, that if Government were to make itself responsible for the titles conferred by other sanskrit bodies, it would have to demand adequate representation upon their executives; and this would mean a degree of control by Government which the Samaj is unwilling to accept, and which Government on their part are not prepared to undertake. Moreover, if Government were to grant their official recognition to the titles conferred by the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj, they could not withhold it in the case of other similar bodies, such, for example, as the Bibudha Janani Sabha of Nawadip, or the Dharma Sabha of Mymensingh, or of any other of the bodies which do now, or may in the future, hold title examinations of their own.

It may be said that the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj can urge a legitimate claim to exceptional treatment, because before the creation of the Presidency of Bengal in 1911, they had expectations of developing into a provincial authority for the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with functions similar to those exercised by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association in the new Presidency. I am ready to agree that to this extent the position of the Samaj does differ from that of other similar associations in the Presidency; and this difference is marked by Government by the concession to the Samaj of a Government grant.

First let me explain the nature of the financial support which is given by Government for the encouragement of indigenous sanskrit learning in

general. This support takes two forms—first, a sum of money distributed annually in the shape of rewards to pandits and students who are successful at the First and Second Sanskrit and Title Examinations held by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association as the agent of Government; and, secondly, a sum amounting to Rs. 10,000 a year, which is distributed among necessitous *tols* as such. This latter sum is entirely distinct from the first sum which is devoted to rewards and stipends, and should not be confused with it. The first sum is open to the pandits and students associated with the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj on precisely the same terms as to all other pandits and students. To advise us on the distribution of the second sum, namely, the Rs. 10,000 for *tols*, we appointed in 1918 an eminent sanskritist, Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Kali Prasanna Bhattacharya, as Inspector of *Tols*. He is still engaged upon his work of inspection, and in the meantime the grant is distributed in accordance with the recommendations of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association. It cannot be said that Eastern Bengal has not been fairly treated by that body, for it has so far received Rs. 6,000 out of the total of Rs. 10,000 available.

Now I come to the matter of exceptional treatment for the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj. In addition to the grants to which I have just referred, we make a special grant to the Samaj itself which we make to no other sanskrit association. The amount of this grant is Rs. 2,400 a year, and it is distributed by the Samaj in rewards and stipends

given on the results of its own examinations. To this extent, therefore, we do now recognize the examinations held by the Samaj in a way in which we recognize the examinations of no other similar body, and we do lay ourselves open to the criticism, that by granting public revenues to one particular *samaj* we do place it in a position which is unique among the *samajes* of Bengal. It will be seen, therefore, that it would be extremely difficult for us to increase this special grant without laying ourselves open to the charge; first, that we were giving public money which is badly wanted by the Calcutta Sanskrit Association for the furtherance of Sanskrit learning in the Presidency as a whole to one favoured *samaj* in the interest of a limited number of *tols*; and, secondly, that we were showing undue favour to one *samaj* to the exclusion of all the other *samajes* of the Presidency. Moreover, in making their request for an increased grant the Samaj has expressed a desire to be relieved of the condition which is attached to all grants-in-aid, namely, that of raising an equivalent amount from other sources. If we were to agree to such a request, it would be tantamount to our agreeing to finance the Samaj entirely out of public money—a course which it would be impossible for us to justify.

The last request made is that the Samaj should be provided with an habitation and library, and this seems to me to rest upon solid ground, in that it might possibly be worked in with a scheme for establishing a department of sanskritic studies

at the new University. I propose to refer this request to the officer who is working out plans in preparation for the new University, so that it may be submitted to the University authorities when they come into existence. I hope that they will find it possible to invite the co-operation of the Samaj in the formation of such a department as the University Commission had in mind.

I have dealt with this matter at some length, because there seems to have been some misunderstanding as to the relative positions of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj and the Calcutta Sanskrit Association, and, indeed, as I explained earlier, I myself have had some difficulty in understanding what exactly the Samaj have in mind when they pray for independence and a self-contained existence. I hope I have succeeded in making clear the difference which necessarily exists between the two bodies and the reasons for that difference. And I also hope that in doing so I have not created an impression that I do not attach due value to the admirable work which the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj is doing. I do not for one moment underestimate the debt which all lovers of Sanskrit owe to the Samaj, and, indeed, when not long ago I had the great satisfaction and pleasure of conferring upon the President of the Samaj, Pandit Shashibhushan Smritirafna, in public durbar the title of Mahamahopadhyaya, I felt that I was not only conferring upon a ripe scholar the reward of his industry and scholarship, but that I was also paying through him a well deserved



compliment to the Samaj of which he was President. May I say, too, that profoundly as I value for its own sake the title of Darshanambudhi which you have been good enough to confer upon me, I value it still more as a striking indication that I have earned the respect and the commendation of so eminent an association of lovers of Sanskrit learning as the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj. I am, indeed, proud to think that I am the first of all the Rulers of Bengal to receive at your hands so signal an honour. To this expression of my gratitude I would add but one word. In setting forth the grounds upon which the selection of this particular title has been based, you refer to the question which I ventured to put to the pandits at last year's Convocation. That question was in connection with certain difficulties which I had experienced in accepting the idealistic monism put forward by Sankara in his commentary upon the Vedanta Sūtras as a complete explanation of the universe. My difficulty was due to what appeared to me to be a weak link in the chain of his reasoning, and I had hoped that I might have received some assistance from you. If my own reasoning was based upon a misunderstanding of what Sankara taught, I should have been glad to have had my misunderstanding removed. Or if I had myself been led into drawing false conclusions from fallacious premises, I should have been grateful, had my error been pointed out. May I still hope for your help and guidance in the matter?

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution  
of the Dacca College, on 2nd March 1920.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to have been able once again to accept the invitation extended to me by your Principal to be present at your annual prize distribution. The report which has just been read contains much that redounds to the credit of the college, though some little also, I regret to say, which must be a source of pain to all who have the welfare of the college at heart. I refer, of course, to the unfortunate breaches of discipline which have occurred during the past year.

One would like to believe that the cases of those students who were expelled for endeavouring to pass their examinations by unfair means were isolated cases, and that with their expulsion the stain had been removed from the college record. But the existence of evidence that a large number of students had intended using unfair means to assist them through their examinations and were only prevented from doing so by the vigilance of those who were conducting them, is ominous, and suggests a regrettable absence of rectitude on the part of an appreciable number of persons. Let us hope that this is a lapse from the high traditions of the college which will not be repeated.

Now I turn to other matters. When I addressed you last year I pointed out that, though the report

of the University Commission had not then been published, we might safely assume that we should find in it a detailed scheme for the establishment of the long-expected University of Dacca. The report has since been published, and the scheme is now before us, and the legislation necessary to give effect to it is even now being forged in the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

Local opinion is well represented upon the Select Committee which is considering the Bill in the persons of Hon'ble Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri and the Hon'ble Rai Lalit Mohan Chattarji Bahadur, Principal of the Jaganath College, who has been appointed to the Imperial Legislative Council for the purpose of giving the expert educational opinion of Dacca, special facilities for making itself felt in the framing of the measure.

In some quarters—though not, I think, in Dacca—there has been a disposition to criticize Government for the haste with which they have proceeded with the necessary legislation. It is certainly difficult to please everybody, for, until the report of the Commission had been published and legislation to give effect to their recommendations was introduced, the criticism to which we had become accustomed was not that we proceeded with too great haste, but on the contrary that we were guilty of unconscionable delay. I myself felt that there was some force in the criticism, and I stated last year that, so far as the Government of Bengal

were concerned, there should be no further avoidable delay. I think I may claim that I am acting up to my word. The Bill will, I hope, become law before the end of the present month, and we shall then be legally entitled to take all the steps necessary to bring the University into being. But much will have to be done which must necessarily take time, and realizing this, we have not waited until the passing of the Bill to begin work; we have, in fact, been at work upon a number of preliminaries for several months past; and it will, perhaps, be of interest to you to know how we now stand.

To start with, we appointed a Special Officer to devote the whole of his time to the task of assisting us in carrying through all the immense amount of preliminary work to be done before the new University can actually come into existence. Let me mention some of the matters upon which we are engaged. There is first of all the question of sites and of buildings. A careful calculation has already been made of the additional houses which will be required for the University Staff. I need not trouble you with the details of our calculation; the net result of it has been to show that we shall have to add to the houses, already available, some 36 residences at an estimated cost of approximately six lakhs of rupees. An elaborate plan of the future University site has been prepared and in my capacity of prospective Chancellor I am this week engaged in studying the plan upon the actual site itself, with a view to arriving at a decision on the

question of the lay out. I am also taking advantage of my present visit to confer with a representative of a big and well known firm which, I hope, may undertake the necessary building. I need hardly add, perhaps, in this connection that we are of opinion that the provision of sanitary conveniences, including a sewerage scheme for the University area, is one of the first things to be taken in hand, and that this is receiving our most careful consideration.

Then apart from the question of accommodation for the University staff, is that of the lecture rooms and students' hostels. We are arranging at the start for the establishment of three halls—the Dacca Hall, the Moslem Hall, and the Jagannath Hall. The Dacca Hall will, of course, be the phoenix which has been picturesquely described by Mr. Turner as rising from the ashes of your own funeral pyre. For the other two halls new buildings will be required, and for these sites have been selected and are being submitted to me for my approval.

Of course the land which will become the University area and the buildings thereon are at present the property of Government, and existing buildings, such as the old Secretariat, are occupied by Government offices. But you can rely upon me in my capacity of Head of the Government meeting myself in my capacity of prospective Chancellor of the University in a friendly and generous spirit. Indeed the adjustments which will be necessary

before we can hand these properties to the future University are occupying our attention at the present moment.

Of course there are a great many other matters which will have to be dealt with after the Bill passes. The various bodies which will be charged with the control of the new University will have to be brought into being; a suitable staff will have to be recruited; intermediate colleges will have to be established and arrangements made for the control of intermediate education and the conduct of the examination which will give entrance to the new University. Financial provision is being made in the coming budget for many of the requirements, such as buildings to which I have already referred, and no time will be lost in pushing on with all these matters.

It is obvious, however, in view of all that has to be done that it would be quite impossible to bring the new University into existence by the beginning of the coming academical year; and what we have to aim at, therefore, is to have the University ready by the beginning of the following academical year, that is to say, by July 1921. I hope we shall succeed in doing this; but we shall require the whole-hearted co-operation of all to enable us to do so.

When addressing you last year I foreshadowed some of the advantages to the cause of education generally and to the student community of Eastern Bengal in particular, which, I hope, to see following



to individual reading under expert guidance, will give to University education a new value, and to the student a new interest and stimulus in his work. The residential character of the new University will of itself give a new meaning to University education which can only be fully understood, perhaps, by persons who have themselves enjoyed the advantages of residential Universities, such, for example, as those of Oxford and Cambridge. It would, indeed, be easy to expatiate at great length upon the vast differences between the existing system and that which will come into being with the new University. But all these things are set forth with great vigour in the report of the University Commission itself, and if I might offer a word of advice to all who are interested in the changes which are about to be made, it would be that, before jumping to hasty conclusions upon the matter, they should devote a little of their leisure to making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the contents of that most excellent document itself.



***His Excellency's Address to Babu Ram Lal Sarkar,  
at the Government House Garden Party,  
Dacca, on 2nd March 1926.***

BABU RAM LAL SARKAR,

I have much pleasure in complying with the request of the Government of Burma to hand to you this Certificate of Honour and gold watch. You joined Government Service in the year 1889 and served as a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in several stations in Burma. You spent over ten years on foreign service as Medical Officer of the British Consulate at Tengyueh and the several British Consuls under whom you served have spoken most highly of your ability and character. The Ambassador at Peking wrote very favourably about your services. You satisfactorily carried out your duties as Superintendent of the Jail at Myanaung. In consideration of your long, faithful and meritorious service, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma has awarded to you this Certificate of Honour and this gold watch. It gives me particular pleasure to hand these to you, because by a strange coincidence I myself chanced to meet you some years ago in a distant corner of the world beyond the confines of the Indian Empire. I remember well just 13 years ago, coming after many months of solitary travel in the less accessible portions of the Chinese Empire, to the town of Tengyueh, some days' journey from the Burmese

frontier. Above all I remember finding there a fellow-subject of His Majesty in the shape of an Indian Medical Practitioner. • • You, too, may, perhaps, remember the arrival of the English traveller, for the appearance of an Englishman was a rare thing in the town of Tengyueh. • You were the Medical Practitioner, and I was the English traveller. Thus after many years does fate decree that the paths by which we travel should cross once more. The heartiness of my congratulations to you on this recognition of your services is all the greater by reason of the previous acquaintance which I can thus claim with you

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of opening  
the Social Service Exhibition at Dacca, on 3rd  
March 1920.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN,

I am delighted to find myself among you all once more for the purpose of opening your second Social Service Exhibition. I was greatly struck last year with the interest and enthusiasm which were aroused by the Exhibition which you then held; but I felt that it must be left to time to show whether this was the outcome of a mere ephemeral impulse or whether it was an indication of a deeper and more permanent movement. I have now little doubt myself that this Exhibition and its predecessor of last year are the outward expression of a real and living force which is stirring the hearts and minds of the people of this neighbourhood. And I am confirmed in this belief by a number of indications of a desire on the part of many to serve their fellowmen which have come to my notice. To begin with, there are a number of Associations in Dacca and its neighbourhood which have come into existence independently, the object of all of which is one form or another of social service. There are the "People's Association", "The Industrial Association", "The Cottage and Home Industries Association", "The Agricultural Development Committee of the District Board", "The Temperance Association", "The Sevasram Samiti"

and "The Ramkrishna Mission". The existence of all these organizations is a clear indication of a ferment in the public mind; and we may safely take it for granted I think, that the promoters of the Exhibition, whether consciously or not, are primarily striving to provide for the force, which is animating all these bodies, the means of self-expression which it is demanding. The Exhibition of last year may, indeed, be said to have been decided on and carried through almost in the teeth of the better judgment of those who were responsible for it. There were not a few of those who promoted it who openly expressed their misgivings as to its fate. We now know that the force which was instinctively impelling them onwards was a truer guide than their unaided judgment. The Exhibition was an unqualified success. One of its most striking features was the extent to which it was patronised by ladies. I am told that never, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has such a gathering of ladies taken place. It is said that on each of the two days set aside for their visits, from three to four thousand ladies attended. The Exhibition, indeed, with its popular lectures on sanitation and hygiene, on education, on scientific agriculture, and on co-operation, played the part of an educational sun sending forth rays in all directions and bringing enlightenment to many a mind hitherto wrapped in the darkness of ignorance.

The strength of this spirit of social service of which I have spoken, was given an opportunity of manifesting itself, when the destructive cyclone of

September last swept over the district, leaving havoc and disaster in its trail. I have been told by an eye-witness of the devoted and self-sacrificing way in which the students at school and college went to work, clearing away ruin, rendering first aid, rescuing men, women and children who had fallen victims to the fury of the storm, carrying the wounded and infirm to hospital, and cremating the dead. With all these indications of the strength of this spirit before me, I do not think that it will be content to stop at Exhibitions. The Exhibition hitherto held has served to open the eyes of many to the amount that they have to learn before they can hope to tackle successfully the immense social problems which await solution. Knowledge has first to be acquired by those who desire to serve their country, and this same knowledge has then to be diffused by them among the people at large. How, for example, can you expect the unenlightened villager to change the habits of a life-time in order to rid himself of the hookworm that is sapping his vitality—a parasite of which he has in all probability never even heard. And how can you expect those who desire to serve him, to bring home to him the absolute necessity of his departing from the immemorial habits of his people, unless they themselves have first made themselves acquainted with the nature of the disease and so are able to explain to him in a manner in which he can easily understand the reasons which make it imperative that he should do so. Much knowledge can be acquired by

a visit to an exhibition like this. But those who have profited it will be the first to assert that the next step in advance must be the creation of an organization for the purpose of providing a constant stream of knowledge at which all those who desire to serve their fellowmen may drink, and for stimulating among them a desire to make personal investigations into the conditions of life prevailing in their midst. A central library, museum and institute might constitute the centre of such an organization, while the formation of study circles, especially among the student community, which must rapidly increase in numbers with the establishment of a university, might constitute one of its main activities. I should imagine that the members of all the associations which I have mentioned, would gratefully avail themselves of the facilities thus provided for acquiring knowledge and comparing the results of their various experiences, since this could be done without in any way interfering with the aims or working of the particular societies to which they belonged. Such an organization would, indeed, become a fount of knowledge and a clearing house of experience for all who cared to avail themselves of it. I do not venture to put forward the idea in any greater detail, because I know that those with local knowledge are more competent to do so and are, indeed, already engaged in thrashing out a plan.

This particular field of work is essentially one for private enterprise; but while I think that

Government as such should stand aside and allow private enterprise full play, I can at the same time assure you that we shall watch your progress with a friendly and sympathetic eye, and that nothing will give us greater pleasure than to see our officers co-operating whole-heartedly with you. The enthusiastic and hardworking Secretaries of last year's exhibition, Mr. Noble and Professor Satyendra Nath Bhadra, have been devoting their attention to an advance in the direction which I have described. When the former returns from his absence in Europe, he will no doubt throw himself once more into the task which he has espoused. Meanwhile Professor Satyendra Nath Bhadra is gallantly carrying on the work, and for much of the labour which has been required to promote this second Exhibition, we are indebted to him. To him as to all those who have worked so willingly and so hard, I offer on your behalf both your congratulations and your thanks. I now declare this Exhibition open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Meeting of the  
Governors of La Martinière College, held in  
Government House, Calcutta, on 8th March  
1920.***

***[Appreciation of Mr. Arden-Wood's services.]***

GENTLEMEN,

This is the last meeting of the Governors of La Martinière at which Mr. Arden-Wood will be present, for he leaves shortly for England at the close of a long and meritorious career as an Educationalist of a high order in India. I am not quite sure how long ago it was that the young student of Christ Church, Oxford, first turned his eyes eastward and sought in this country a field for his activities. He came to La Martinière from the College in Cooch Behar, and he soon made his influence felt in the appointment of Principal which he was offered in 1892 and which he has held ever since. Under his guidance the school was one of the first of the European schools to break away from the limitations of the European 'Schools' Code as it then was, and so long as the old idea of limiting a school to a narrow curriculum prevailed, La Martinière took no assistance from Government. A rapprochement between the school and the Education Department took place in 1907, when, the then Director of Public Instruction, Sir Archdale Earle, arranged for a grant enabling the school to develop on satisfactory lines. Under



Mr. Wood's guidance and inspiration the school has made steady progress and is at the present time undoubtedly one of the best boys' schools for Europeans in the whole of India.

As Governors of the school, it is with Mr. Wood's educational activities that we are primarily concerned; but we are all of us aware of his public work outside the Principal's office and the class-room. He has always taken a keen interest in the future of those who pass through his hands and he has been a life long friend of the domiciled and Anglo-Indian community. I myself speedily realized the importance of the part which he was playing in this connection; and I took an early opportunity of nominating him a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council—a body of which he has proved himself a valuable member.

There must be many, too, who will recall the work which he did for the University as a member of the first Senate which was constituted after the passing of the Indian Universities Act.

As Governors of La Martinière, we are anxious to provide Mr. Wood with some token of our appreciation of his services. We have presented the school with a photograph of its Principal which was unveiled by the Lord Bishop a few days ago. And I now have the pleasure of handing to Mr. Arden-Wood a cheque for £200, with our best thanks for his past services, and with our hearty good wishes to him for his future welfare.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling of Lord Carmichael's Portrait in the Legislative Council Chamber, Government House, Calcutta, on 13th March 1920.***

**MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR AND GENTLEMEN,**

I need hardly say that it gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to accede to the request which has just been made to me to unveil this portrait. The portrait, as the Maharaja has mentioned, has been presented by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council, as a token of their affection and regard for Lord Carmichael. It is, perhaps, too early to form any final estimate of the value of Lord Carmichael's administration. His five years were years of a strenuous character when there were many problems to face within his own sphere of jurisdiction, while nearly the whole of that period suffered from the disadvantage, that it was overshadowed by the great convulsion outside which was shaking to its very foundations the complex structure of civilization which laboriously and for so many centuries humanity had been building up. But though we at the present time are too close to the five years of Lord Carmichael's administration to judge of them in true perspective,—that must be left for the historian of the future—yet we can say without fear of contradiction that Lord Carmichael's administration will, for all time, stand as a landmark in the history of Bengal. Lord Carmichael was appointed to inaugurate

a new regime. His appointment itself was the outcome of sweeping changes. These had been the annulment of the Partition of Bengal; there had been the removal of the Capital from Calcutta; there had been the elevation of the Province to the status of a Presidency; and the creation of Government by a Governor in Council in place of Government by a Lieutenant-Governor in Council. It would be idle to pretend that these changes met with universal approbation. There were many persons connected with Eastern Bengal who felt that they were losing much that had been theirs when Eastern Bengal was a separate Province. There were many who resented deeply the removal of the capital of India from this city. Lord Carmichael possessed precisely those qualities which were required to meet the situation with which he was faced. There will be few, I think, who will deny that with his extraordinary patience and accessibility, his gentility, his tact, his kindness, and his shrewd capacity, derived perhaps from his ancestry, for probing to the heart of the problems with which he was faced, he achieved a measure of success which, perhaps, few men in his position could have achieved in pouring balm upon many a smarting wound.

These same qualifications enabled him to achieve a striking measure of success in another direction, success to which I, as his successor, can testify with profound gratitude and satisfaction. I refer to his success in bringing men of all classes,

of all creeds and of all communities to a better understanding of one another's points of view. And if I might, perhaps, touch for one moment upon a more personal aspect, I would say that Lord Carmichael made many friends amongst all communities in Bengal. There can be few members of this Council, I should imagine, who have not enjoyed the privilege and the advantage, not only of his friendship, but also of his kindly and sound advice, and I think I may say without hesitation that when at the close of five strenuous years of office at a time, as I have pointed out, of great difficulty he left this country, he did so without leaving a single enemy behind. That is a great success for any man in Lord Carmichael's position to have won.

Now it only remains for me to express my satisfaction at having been invited to perform the ceremony of unveiling this portrait. It is eminently fitting that, as the first Governor of Bengal, his portrait should hang in the Bengal Legislative Council Chamber. I have seen the portrait, and it may be, perhaps, that many of you will miss the kindly and humorous twinkle of the eye which, I am sure, you constantly noticed in Lord Carmichael in the flesh, but with that one possible defect I believe the portrait will be regarded as a good likeness of the late Governor of this Presidency and one which the Members of this Council will be proud to have hung upon its Chamber's walls.

***His Excellency's address to the Boy Scouts in  
Government House, Calcutta, on 13th March  
1920.***

**OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF  
BENGAL—**

It is just five years ago that I held your first rally in the grounds of Government House to inaugurate and place on a recognized footing the Indian Boy Scout movement in this city. It was a matter of some regret to me that circumstances necessitated the creation of a separate organization. I should like to have thought that every Boy Scout in this city was a member of the same organization, but since that was not possible, the next best thing to do was to create a responsible organization as like as possible to the Baden-Powell organization to take charge of the Indian Boy Scouts. The partition wall between the two organizations is, I am happy to say, a very thin one, and I hope that if we go on knocking at it long enough, it may fall down altogether. But whether that be so or not, the thing that really matters is that the spirit which animates the Boy Scouts in the two organizations should be the same. I am delighted to find from the reports which I have received that the spirit which animates the Bengal Boy Scouts is identical with the spirit which animates the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts. I would take this opportunity of congratulating

both the officers and the Boy Scouts themselves upon the splendid progress which they have made during the past two years. Not only are you increasing in numbers, but you are steadily increasing in efficiency. I had great pleasure last summer in receiving a report to the effect that some seven Boy Scouts had already qualified for the honour of the title "Governor's Scout." I am delighted to congratulate them to-day upon their success, and I gather from the information I have received from the various Scoutmasters this afternoon that it will not be long before I shall have the pleasure of congratulating an appreciable additional number upon winning the same title. It only remains for me to express my very deep appreciation of the manner in which the Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters have thrown themselves into their work. Without whole-hearted and efficient service from the Scoutmasters the Boy Scout movement could not possibly flourish, and I attribute the success which this movement has already attained, very largely, if not mainly, to the enthusiastic way in which the Scoutmasters and their Assistants have thrown their whole heart and soul into the movement, and devoted a great deal of their valuable time towards making it a success. I could not possibly conclude these few remarks without expressing to your District Commissioner in particular, Mr. Kirkham, my gratitude for all that he has done for you. I am certain that the movement is now on a thoroughly sound footing and

that it will show steady progress as the years roll by. It is a movement which has tremendous potentialities for good, and I am certain that those who have thrown in their lot with it will live to be proud of the day on which they associated themselves with so admirable a movement. I congratulate you all, and offer you my sincere good wishes for your continued progress and success.

***of the Board of the Bengal Agricultural Department, on 18th March 1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

This is the first annual meeting of the recently established Board of the Bengal Agricultural Department; and it will clear the air of possible misconceptions, if I explain first of all what the precise nature of this newly formed body is. First, let me explain what it is not. It is not, nor has it any direct connection with, the Provincial Agricultural Association of Bengal, and it must not, therefore, be confused with that body. When addressing the members of that Association in July 1918, I mentioned some respects in which I thought that its organization, and consequently its working, had proved defective, and I now hope that it will undergo such changes as will fit it to become the provincial branch of the Indian Agricultural Society—a new society which is being formed on the lines of the Royal Agricultural Society of Great Britain. As such it would be essentially a non-official body, and it would be not an advisory but an active organization, assisting the progress of agriculture by doing things with its own funds.

The Board of the Agricultural Department, on the other hand, with which we are primarily concerned to-day, has been established for a different purpose. Its functions are wholly advisory.



It will devote its energies to the scientific solution of the agricultural problems peculiar to Bengal and will advise Government with regard to them. It consists of the principal agricultural experts of the province; but it invites the co-operation of others, both official and non-official, who can render it assistance. It will hold annual conferences—of which this is the first—to which large landholders, representative agriculturists, representatives of allied trades and others interested in rural development will be invited as visitors to take part in its deliberations. It will also convene committees such, for example, as Cotton or Jute Committees, to sit at any time during the year to which will be invited visitors whose presence is necessary for the discussion of matters with which the particular committee is concerned.

By the constitution of these two bodies—the Provincial Branch of the Indian Agricultural Society and the Board of the Agricultural Department of Bengal—we have reached a definite stage in the evolution of our organization for promoting the development of agriculture in the Presidency; and it is not inappropriate, therefore, that I should take this opportunity provided by the inaugural meeting of the Board, to review briefly the policy which we have been pursuing in the matter of agriculture in recent years and the results which we have so far achieved. This seems to me to be all the more desirable, because I doubt if any Department of Government has been the subject

of more uninstructed criticism than has the Department of Agriculture.

To make clear the reasons underlying our present policy which I shall define in a moment, a reference is necessary to the past activities of Government in the sphere of agriculture. A good deal of energy was devoted by Government to the development of agriculture during the closing quarter of the 19th century. This energy exerted itself mainly in attempts to organize the public interested. The actual results achieved so far as the advancement of the industry is concerned, were practically nil. The period was productive, however, of one valuable lesson, namely, that there is nothing to be gained by organizing the public, unless there is something definite for the public when organized to do. In other words, that experiment must precede demonstration and that research is essential before any real advance can be made through propaganda. This having at last been realized, a rational policy, namely, that of promoting research and then giving wide publicity to the conclusions to be drawn from the experiments made, was adopted, and Lord Curzon's Government established the Indian Agricultural Service in 1904-1905 and proceeded to recruit to it specialists trained in all branches of agricultural science. The earlier years under the new policy were necessarily devoted almost exclusively to research with the result that the public saw little of the activities of the new service and the pessimists among the critics began to shake their

heads in gloomy satisfaction at what they regarded as the failure of the experts and the vindication of their own dismal lucubrations. The cultivator, himself, however, is not slow to recognize a good thing when he sees it, and about the year 1910 the first fruits of the experiments of the scientists began to come to his notice. When he realized that as a result of these experiments greatly improved races of his staple crops were forthcoming, he did not fail to take advantage of them with the result that to-day "pure line" cultures, as they are called, of many of the principal Indian crops are being grown literally on millions of acres throughout the Continent.

Briefly, then, our policy has been directed, firstly, towards the discovery and production of improved varieties of seed, and secondly, towards the creation of machinery for its wide distribution, or, to put it more concisely still, to "research followed by demonstration." Let me touch on each of these two aspects of our policy.

Research work has now been in progress at the Government Farm at Dacca for a number of years past, and this branch of our policy is firmly established. It has already been productive of remarkable results. Our scientists naturally devoted their attention first of all to the two staple crops of Bengal, rice and jute.

One of the greatest rice-producing tracts in the world, extending over an area of more than 20 million acres, lies round the head of the

Bay of Bengal. Seventy per cent. of the total cultivated area in Bengal is, in fact, under rice. Here then was a splendid field for investigation, and the scientists took full advantage of it. By a process of selection Mr. Hector, who was until recently the Economic Botanist at Dacca, has produced two varieties of rice, both of which have a yield largely in excess of the average yield of the varieties ordinarily grown in Bengal. The first of these, known as *Indrasail*, is a transplanted *aman*, and in Eastern and Northern Bengal yields about 3 maunds an acre more than the average of the local varieties. The second, known as *Kataktara*, is an *aus* paddy. The success of these two seeds is proved by the demand for them which exists among the cultivators. I have seen it stated from time to time that the demand is great, because the seed is given away—an indication that there are still uninstructed persons among our critics. Had they taken the trouble to ascertain the facts, instead of jumping recklessly to groundless conclusions, they would have known that the rules lay down that no attempt is to be made to undersell the market and that the seed is, therefore, sold at commercial rates. The following facts will, perhaps, be of interest to them. These two varieties were grown last year on a quarter of a million acres with the result that the food-supply was increased by something like seven and-a-half lakhs of maunds of grain, worth 30 lakhs of rupees. There is every reason to expect that the area of distribution and the consequent increase

in yield will be added to steadily year by year, and there is an eventual prospect, as a result of the policy which we have adopted, of the food supply of rice in Bengal being increased by six crores of maunds of paddy, worth at present prices 24 crores of rupees. A similar story can be told of jute. The variety known as *Kakya Bombai*, which has been produced at the farm at Dacca by a process of selection, yields on the average about 2 maunds of fibre more per acre than the average local races; and the demand for the seed of this variety already outstrips the supply. In 1918-19, this selected jute was grown on an area of 100,000 acres and the increased yield of fibre on this area is estimated to have been 250,000 maunds, worth Rs. 20,00,000. The type of jute most suitable to Western Bengal is now under investigation, and there seems to be no reason why the eventual increase should not amount to 5,000,000 maunds of fibre, worth probably four crores of rupees.

There are other problems of importance to be tackled by the research workers, such as the selection of *rabi* seed, the determination of the chemical analysis of the soil in different parts of the Presidency, the fertilisers most suited to the different soils, the investigation of diseases in plants, such as the *Ufra* disease, and the introduction of new crops in tracts which have hitherto been barren. The recent introduction of groundnut in the higher lands of Western Bengal is the

most striking example so far of what can be done in this latter connection. All these problems are receiving attention, but what I have said is sufficient to show that this branch of our policy—namely research, has already received remarkable justification, and that the time has come to push on with the other branch—namely, demonstration. This aspect of our policy has received much attention from the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming for some time past. To make known to the cultivating classes the results of the work of the scientists and to enable them to benefit from it, we rely upon propaganda by a net work of officials; upon demonstrations carried out upon farms maintained for the purpose; upon the distribution of seed from a net work of seed stores; upon agricultural education; and last, but not least, upon non-official co-operation with us. With regard to the first of these agencies, we have now a District Agricultural Officer in every district, and we have recently decided to create a lower subordinate service of demonstrators, one to be attached to each thana. It has been found by experience that there is a class of *bhadralok* which will make suitable practical demonstrators, and we propose, therefore, that this service should be recruited from *bhadralok* of this class and from the cultivators themselves after a proper training at a central research station.

Then with regard to demonstration farms, it is our intention to establish such farms at the rate of

three or four a year, until we have one in every district in the Presidency. We have farms at Rajshahi and Rangpur, and we manage private farms at Burdwan, Kalimpong, and at Gosaba in the 24 Parganas. Last year we started to establish new farms in Mymensingh, Comilla and Bogra. This year we are taking the matter up in Bakarganj, Pabna and Suri. We invite District Boards to co-operate with us in this programme, and in return for assistance from them in the shape of land and of money, we offer them a share in the management subject, of course, to the professional control of the department. We have established seed stores at each district headquarters, and we propose to do so at each subdivisional headquarters as well. In the matter of education we are paying attention to the provision of courses in practical agriculture as distinct from courses of a more theoretical character, and we are opening two vernacular agricultural schools at Dacca and at Chinsura. The prospectus of the Dacca School has been issued, and the school itself started on the 15th of January last. In the event of these schools proving a success, it is our intention to start similar schools in other districts. We are also establishing an agricultural institute at Dacca, the object of which is to give persons, who have already received a good general education, a practical training in agriculture up to the highest standard. The course which is still under consideration will be designed to fit a man for a career as a land agent or for service in the Agricultural

Department. Funds have been allotted and orders have issued for the acquisition of land in the neighbourhood of the Government farm at Dacca.

Finally, I come to private effort. And in this connection, I would refer to the view which I expressed when addressing the members of the Provincial Agricultural Association in July 1918, that non-official effort could be most advantageously organized by the creation of a large number of Agricultural Associations, each covering a comparatively small area. That view had already been accepted in the district of Birbhum and has since been acted upon in the district of Faridpur. I have recently had an opportunity of seeing for myself the working of the Agricultural Associations in Birbhum, and I have no hesitation in saying that all that I saw there fully confirms me in the view which I expressed in 1918.

With similar organizations spread over the Presidency and with the same spirit of co-operation, not only between the people and Government, but between different classes of the people themselves which I found prevailing in Birbhum, I see the dawn of a splendid and a most prosperous future for what must always be the greatest of all India's industries. The control of this great industry will shortly be transferred from the hands of those at present holding it to a Minister more directly responsible to the people themselves than any member of the Government as we have known it up to the present time. Mr. Cumming may



justly claim that when the time comes he will hand over to the new Minister, whoever he may be, a department which has achieved far-reaching results of solid and permanent worth to the teeming cultivators of the soil, and an organization proved by experience to be best fitted to the requirements of Bengal, and capable of steady expansion as time and circumstances may demand. For this happy state of affairs great credit is due to the Director and acting Director of Agriculture, to the scientists and other officers of the department. But credit is also in no small measure due to the conscientious and able way in which Mr. Cumming has administered the trust committed to his care; and we should be altogether lacking in a sense of gratitude, if we failed to give expression to the appreciation which is his due.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize-giving of the  
Bengal Veterinary College, on 26th March  
1920.***

GENTLEMEN,

This is not the first time I have visited the Veterinary College, though this is the first time I have been present at your annual prize distribution. On the occasion of my last visit I made a thorough inspection of the college and hospital, and I was able to judge for myself as to the improvements which were required. I was able to get one improvement effected almost at once, namely, the construction of the wall which was required to enclose the compound along the north-west side of the road. Other requirements, such as a new house for the Principal, still await funds becoming available; but the money necessary for the erection of a new pavilion on the playground has been found and the building has, I believe, just been completed. Another matter which was brought to my notice at the time of my inspection, was the want of a second Imperial Service Officer. A second officer, Mr. Kerr, arrived yesterday after an absence of five years from India, though he will be required at first to act for Colonel Smith who is going on leave. I am glad that it has been

found possible to increase the pay of the Veterinary Assistants and Inspectors, the former from Rs. 30 rising by quinquennial increments of Rs. 10 to Rs. 70 to an initial pay of Rs. 50 rising by similar increments to Rs. 100; and the latter from an initial pay of Rs. 70 rising to Rs. 150 to an initial pay of Rs. 100 rising by annual increments of Rs. 5 to Rs. 175. I have also learned with satisfaction of the steady increase in the number of students at the college from 96 five years ago to 158 at the present time. Of this latter figure I note that 64 come from Bengal as against 94 from other parts of India. The class of person looking to this profession for a career is also showing improvement. For example, five years ago there were only 18 matriculates among those admitted, whereas there are now 48, and during the current year a candidate who held the certificate of the Intermediate in Arts was admitted.

The cultivators are showing an increasing appreciation of the work of the Department and are readily accepting inoculation of their cattle against contagious diseases. It is all the more desirable, therefore, that the sanctioned strength of Veterinary Assistants for district work, namely, 180, should be worked up to. This is a matter for the District Boards; and I hope it will not be long before these bodies see their way to bring the actual present strength which is roughly 100 up to the sanctioned strength of 180.

Now, it only remains for me to offer the prize-winners my hearty congratulations and to wish them well in their future careers. They are embarking upon careers which must be of immense value to a country which depends so largely, as does India, upon agriculture for the livelihood and the prosperity of its peoples.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of Child-Welfare Exhibition, Town Hall, on 27th March, 1920.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

It is being brought home to me almost daily that a very great deal of the ill-health and consequent mortality from which the people of Bengal suffer is attributable to ignorance of the causes of disease and of the simple measures which in many cases would prove sufficient to remove them.

The number of deaths reported in Bengal last year was 1,641,111, a large proportion of which was due to preventable disease. For example, an outbreak of Cholera at the Ganga Saugor Mela, which need never have occurred, had the people possessed a knowledge of the simple precautions which are necessary to guard against the disease, accounted for the death of a large number of people. More than a million and a quarter people are reported to have died of fever, such as Malaria and other febrile diseases, such as Pneumonia, Tuberculosis and so on. The causes of these diseases and their nature are no longer mysteries. They have been discovered by the splendid research work of an army of investigators; and the great task which has now to be undertaken is that of making known to the people themselves, as simply as possible, the conclusions to be drawn from the knowledge thus acquired. One of the most

tragic aspects of the mortality of Bengal is the appalling death-rate among her children. Of the total number of 1,641,111 deaths recorded last year, no less than 626,755 were those of children under ten years of age. And of these 278,370 were infants under one year. In other words, of every thousand children born in Bengal last year, 226 died within twelve months of their birth. To take Calcutta alone some 16 babies died on the average everyday; and it is estimated that of these 16 infants who died daily, 14 were needlessly sacrificed to the ignorance of their parents or others who attended on them. That this is not mere surmise becomes clear if we compare the state of affairs here with that prevailing elsewhere. The rate of infant mortality in Calcutta last year, for example, was more than seven times as great as that of New Zealand; or to put it in another way, if the rate of infant deaths in Calcutta had been no greater than in New Zealand, only 825 babies would have died instead of 5,925 as was actually the case. Such figures, as these, provide eloquent proof of the vital importance of spreading knowledge with regard to all branches of public health, and particularly with regard to child welfare. This exhibition is designed to act as a centre of propaganda. The importance which Government attach to the question is evidenced by their appointment of a committee last summer to advise on the measures which should be taken to promote child welfare in Bengal, with special reference to the reduction

of infantile mortality, and by the provision of Rs. 30,000 which has been made in the budget of the coming year for work in this connection. But it is obvious that Government can do little without the whole-hearted co-operation of the public; and at the exhibition, which I am about to declare open, the public of Calcutta will have a splendid opportunity of learning much of which they were, perhaps, ignorant before, and of ascertaining how they can assist in organizing a campaign for the spread of knowledge. In conclusion, I cannot refrain from giving expression to the gratitude which all must feel to Her Excellency Lady Chelmsford for the whole-hearted way in which she has thrown herself into the task of organizing public opinion upon this question. We are indebted to the promoters of the maternity and infant welfare exhibition recently held at Delhi under the patronage of Her Excellency, for many of the exhibits which will be found on view here to-day. We are indebted also to many others whose names are too numerous for me to mention for much valuable assistance and not least, I need hardly say, to our Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Bentley, who has thrown himself into the work of organizing this exhibition with characteristic energy and enthusiasm.

I have much pleasure in declaring the exhibition open,

